Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. January 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4072.)

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424

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

1879.

91

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Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

No. 1.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 36. Political.)

Erzeroum, September 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a despatch from Mr. Boyajian, Acting British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, giving an interesting account of the progress and work of the Imperial Commission of Reforms in that vilayet.

The banishment of the principal Kurdish Begs and Aghas, although in my opinion carried out in too wholesale a manner, has, doubtless, for the present had a salutary effect, which will, I hope, be permanent; but it is only right that I should state to your Lordship that many people of experience in this country, including his Excellency Yussuf Pasha, the first Imperial Commissioner for Reforms in this vilayet, have pointed out to me that if we can judge of the future from the past, there is no doubt that in a few years, or perhaps even months, the exiled Aghas will represent at Constantinople that they have been condemned without trial and unjustly; and the expenditure of liberal sums of money amongst the officials at the Palace and the Porte will insure the return of the greater number of the now exiled Chiefs to their native country, where they will wring with interest from the unfortunate peasantry any sums that have been spent in procuring their own release, and will, if possible, treat the Christians and Rayahs even worse than before.

It is worthy of special note that, although the authorities appear to be acting with a righteous zeal against the Kurdish Chiefs, they appear to be doing very little to purge their own body of evil-doers and to improve the administration of justice. Mr. Boyajian, himself a native of Diarbekir, and thoroughly acquainted with the country, says: "I am sorry to say nothing has been done in the way of reforming the Courts of Justice, I may say that they are worse than before."

One can believe this when one learns that one of the comparatively highly paid newly appointed "Procureurs-Généraux" is already in prison for bribery.

I read out aloud to the first Imperial Commissioner here, that part of Mr. Boyajian's letter where he writes: "Abeddin Bey said that all the capable people in Diarbekir being corrupt, he did not know, if he changes the present incumbents, who to substitute for them."

His Excellency immediately said: "That is just my own difficulty."

How this wholesale corruption is to be eradicated is a problem which may well cause anxiety and uneasiness to Her Majesty's Government. I imagine it exists as badly in the Palace and at the Porte as in the provinces; and to it may be attributed the greater part of the evils under which the country is suffering.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian to Major Trotter.

Diarbekir, August 24, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 6th and 14th instant I sent you two telegrams informing you that two parties had left Diarbekir as exiles to Albania, all of them being notoriously bad people. I now inclose a list of their names, and the localities from which they come.

His Excellency Abeddin Bey has succeeded in seizing these Beys and Aghas prudently and quietly, for, if they had known what their end would be, they would not have come to Diarbekir, and a force of 10,000 troops would scarcely have been able to arrest and bring them down here.

They arrived here one after another, and were put under the surveillance of the police, and, when their number was complete, the Commissioner gave orders to imprison them, and it was only three hours before their departure that he informed them that they were going to leave for Aleppo, without giving them any hint of their destination. Three hours after sunset, with a strong guard of zaptiehs and soldiers, the first batch headed by Fettah Bey, otherwise the King of Kharzan, were sent away. The next morning the news spread in the town, and the friends of the exiles were struck with awe. The impression of this prompt act of the Commissioner on the people at large has been very salutary and assuring.

On the 14th instant another party of twenty-six persons were sent away quietly, and there is a third party of about the same number who are to share the same fate. I showed to Abeddin Bey your telegram of the 10th instant, desiring your congratulations to him, at the same time expressing the hope on your part that he will act with equal energy against corrupt officials. He immediately sent you a telegraphic answer promising to do so; but I must confess that, up to this time, I have not seen any signs of it.

In one of my despatches I informed you of the dismissal of the Mardin Mutessarif; he was sent to Diarbekir some time ago. Although his maladministrations, bribery, &c., were well known before you left this, and Manas Effendi, the Second Commissioner, found the charges to be true, yet since his arrival nothing has been heard about him here, and no examination of his case has been made. I hear that he extorted money by various means from people at Midyat, and several horses from Arab Sheikhs. As soon as he heard that the Second Commissioner was going to Mardin, he sold the horses, and paid the profit to the Treasury. He now says that when he paid visits to the Sheikhs they offered him several horses as presents; he could not refuse them without giving offence, so he was obliged to accept and sell them, and whatever they realized he would pay into the Treasury, as he did. What a nice excuse! His visits to those regions, instead of ameliorating the condition of the people, have, I am told, made it worse; nevertheless, the Judge and the Vali always speak in his favour, and I am afraid they will acquit him.

In my former despatches I have mentioned Manas Effendi's efforts at Mardin. Mr Andrus still continues to give a good account of his doings both there and at Midyat. In the latter place he arrested a good many bad characters and dismissed the Kaïmakam, whose corruption was well known here before he was sent to Midyat. While Manas Effendi was reproaching him for his misconduct, he used very abuse language to him in the presence of many people, among others, I believe, Mr. Andrus was present. He says that he never heard a man speaking in that way to his superior. That man (whose name is Ali Bey) was Kaïmakam of Nisibin, and we know his precedents; he was a very bad administrator, corrupt, and constantly in a state of intoxication. While there he collected Bashi-Bazouks, attacked some Kurds and plundered them, and on his way back he let his men burn and plunder two villages of unoffending people. At the time Abdul Rahman Pasha was Vali here he tried very hard to justify his doings; bribes were offered and taken by some of the officials, but the charges against him were so grave that they could not possibly acquit him. He was lately sent by the present Vali as Kaïmakam of Midyat, and I now I hear that some people are trying to acquit him again, thus you see that, in spite of all efforts to reform the country, the officials take no steps to reform themselves.

On learning the other day that Manas Effendi is likely to be replaced by some one else, and that the First Commissioner is not in accord with him, I sought a private interview with Abeddin Bey; he very kindly appointed a time. On calling on him, I had a long conversation about the matter, and his Excellency very kindly opened his mind to me. He complains against Manas Effendi on several points, one of which is that while the Sheikh of the Tai Arabs—a notoriously bad man who was lately sent into exile—was detained here, Manas Effendi, writing from Mardin, demanded his release. This being refused, he threatened to write to Constantinople. Another of his grievances is that

Manas Effendi, contrary to his wish, tried to make a Mudir of a man of very low character. Another one is that in arresting and sending to Diarbekir some of the brigands and bad characters from Mardin and Midyat he did not act justly, but took under his protection one party of equally bad one, and persecuted the others. Besides these and such like, Manas Effendi, being a Second Commissioner, though he is bound to seek the advice of the First Commissioner, likes to act independently; moreover, in point of morality, Manas Effendi has lost his reputation, and consequently lowered the esteem of his office. Abeddin Bey said he has written to Constantinople asking the Government to replace Manas Effendi by some one else. I dare say there is some truth in these statements, as I have heard some of them from other sources. I am not sure whether the Porte will accept the application for Manas's removal. If they do, I hope they will appoint a person who understands his duty and acts uprightly.

In a previous despatch I mentioned a decision of the Reform Committee, that for the safety of the inhabitants in various localities of the vilayet, according to their local importance and necessities, some forces of regular troops should be posted, and barracks built for their residence. The permission for the execution of this measure was applied for and obtained. I inclose a list of the places and the number of the troops who are to be stationed at each place, from which you will see that if this plan is carried out properly, after sending away the Chiefs of the Kurdish tribes, there will be, in a great measure, security, and I have no doubt that in consequence of this the revenue will greatly increase.

I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in the way of reforming the Courts of Justice. I may say that they are worse than before. Formerly, they had one President in each; they have now two and a Procureur-Général. Those appointed to these important posts are generally unworthy and corrupt persons. I and others did our best to induce the Commissioner to change some of them. But Abeddin Bey says that on his arrival here these men were introduced to him as competent and honest persons. He applied for and got the sanction of the Minister of Justice, and as they are now Officers of Justice they cannot be dismissed without a cause. One of the Procureurs-Généraux is now in prison for bribery. To do Abeddin Bey justice, I must here mention that he immediately applied to the Sublime Porte and obtained his dismissal; but the others are just as culpable as this one. Said Effendi, the present Kaïmakam of Djezireh, who, as you are aware, is one of the worst men in the world, is appointed as Vice-President of the Criminal Tribunal at Malatia. In addition to these bad appointments a Circular order lately arrived from the Porte which runs thus:—"Owing to the present state of the Treasury, the members of the Courts of Justice must hereafter serve gratuitously." Here is one of the greatest mischiefs; up to this time we had the hope that, when the Commissioners arrived, they would see the mischief of paying small salaries, and try to secure an adequate remuneration; but we find now that, instead of fair pay, they have abolished it altogether. This certainly cannot be called reforming the Courts of Justice. As to economy, surely this is not one.

The following Table will show the result of the past and present arrangement:—

	Piastres per month.
Past arrangement:	
President	4,500
Four Members	780
	5,280

	Piastres per month.
Present arrangement:	
President	4,500
Vice-President	3,000
Procuror-General	1,500
	9,000

difference in favour of past arrangement 3,720 piastres per month. To this sum we may add the salary of the Procureur of the vilayet, which is fixed at 5,000 piastres. Owing to the present state of the Treasury they ought not to introduce, for the present at least, this new element, which, although it sounds well, I do not believe will work as well as is expected.

The new taxes imposed on the poor people on presenting a petition to the Court, their having to pay so many piastres for registration, so much in taking their cases to some other department, is actually preventing the people from taking their cases before the magistrates. As this law is propagated throughout the country I need not go into details of its result, as I am sure that it will have the same effect in Erzeroum as here.

The question of reforming the Courts of Justice being a prominent one, Her Majesty's Ambassador should exercise all his influence to make it a real thing. The other day,

when conversing with Abeddin Bey on this subject, he said that all the capable people in Diarbekir being corrupt he does not know, if he changes the present incumbents, whom to substitute for them. I told him plainly that, if he cannot find honest people amongst the Mahommedans, he must supply some from the Christians, and the rest from Constantinople.

I am receiving bad accounts concerning the Mutessarif of Kharpoot, who is an incompetent man, and a great fanatic; unfortunately, Abeddin Bey has a special predilection for him.

The band of police is formed, the number stationed here being 65; the first and second officers are Mahommedans, and the third, a sub-lieutenant, a Christain. One-third of the whole number are Christians, they are in uniform, and look very smart and active. If their salaries are paid regularly, and a rigid discipline is kept up, this body may render good service in the town. Of the police, 40 will be stationed at Mardin, with a superior Christian officer, 35 at Sehert, and the same number at Malatia.

The price of provisions is getting very high, and already the signs of poverty and famine are appearing. Hundreds of Arab families are located in the neighbourhood of Diarbekir. Farmers are demanding seed for next year, but the Government does not care much about it. I pointed out, both to the Vali and to the Commission the other day, the danger of neglecting an affair like this. They promised to consider the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN.

August 27.

P.S.—On the 26th instant a third party of twenty-two Kurdish Chiefs were banished. Four of them are from Mardin. The effect of this is felt throughout the vilayet. From all directions we continue to receive good news; all the vilayet is tranquil, and travelling is perfectly safe.

T. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

NAMES of the banished Kurdish Begs and Aghas.

FIRST PARTY.

1. Hadji Fetah Beg, of Kharzan.
2. Hamid Beg, Fetah Beg's brother.
3. Seiyfeddeen, Fetah Beg's son.
4. Tello Agha, of Kulp.
5. Mirza Agha, Tello's nephew.
6. Hadji Abdullah Beg, of Selivan.
7. Mehemed Rashid Agha, of Selivan.
8. Mehemed Agha Isar, of Shurnak.
9. Hamid Agha, of Sert.
10. Hadji Musa, Hamid's brother.
11. Rashid, Hamid's brother.
12. Isa Effendi, Hamid's son.
13. Hamza, Hamid's son.
14. Hadji Suleyman, of Sert.
15. Nimet Chavoosh, of Sert.
16. Hassan Chavoosh, of Sert.
17. Mustafa, of Sert.
18. Isa Mehemed Hadji Oghloo.
19. Yousoof, Mehemed's brother.
20. Abdulrahman Hamhakinan Oghloo.
21. Osmane Tamo, of Midiat.
22. Abdulrahman, the son of Tay Shikh.
23. Sayfeddeen Beg, of Hazro.

SECOND PARTY.

24. Emin Beg, the brother of Fetah Beg.
25. Eumer Burni, the Agha of Alikan.
26. Kako, the Agha of Bakiran.
27. Mir Mehemed, of Refré.
28. Khalil Beg, the son of Mir Mehemed.
29. Ibrahim Hasso.
30. Hasso, Ibrahim Hasso's son.
31. Zakka, Ibrahim Hasso's son.
32. Ali, Ibrahim Hasso's son-in-law.
33. Sherif Beg, of ——.
34. Telli Beg, of ——.
35. Telli Agha, of——.
36. Mirza Agha.
37. Mirza, of Baghsali.
38. Muri, of Malafan.
39. Emin of Shekh Choban.
40. Dervish Beg.
41. Mirza, of Bisheri.
42. Hadji Rashid, of Selivan.
43. Khalaf, of Malafan.
44. Salih.
45. Said, of Almadin.

LIST of the Garrisons where the regular Soldiers are to be located.

Place.	No. of Companies.	Place.	No. of Companies.
Infantry—		Infantry—	
Sairt	4	Chermook	2
Hazco	4	Husni Mansour ..	2
Ziarat	1	Kakhta	2
Selivan	1	Ighjadagh	2
Arbo	2	Cavalry—	
Bätmän	1	Nisibin	1
Midiat	1	Hästä	1
Dérik	1	Ras-el-Ayn	1
Ajil . ..	1		

No. 2.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 48. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, September* 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches received from Captain Clayton, R.A., Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van, containing further details as to the progress of the Kurdish insurrection. The Vali of Van sends lengthy telegraphic communications to the first Imperial Commissioner here, all of which have been communicated to me, but they are singularly badly written, and convey extremely little useful information.

On the 15th September, the Vali telegraphed that the Hakkiari Mutessarif had written, saying that he was trying to calm the Kurds. Sheikh Ubeydullah had summoned his son Abd-ul-Kader to his presence, in order that he might compel him to make his submission to Government. For some days there had been a calm. The Vali has sent to Sheik Ubeydullah, under charge of the Mufti of Van a telegram from the Grand Vizier to the Sheik.

On the 18th September the Vali again telegraphed: "I have received letters from the Mutessarif of Hakkiari. He reports that in Giwar (Givar) the insurgents have pillaged twelve villages. The Mutessarif sent a company of soldiers against them, who killed nineteen Kurds and wounded five, no soldiers wounded. It was the Sheikh (Ubeydullah) who informed the Mutessarif of this news. The Sheikh had gone with 400 men to recover and restore what has been plundered. I do not believe in the Sheikh's declarations. He has now 4,000 Kurds under his orders, and armed Kurds continue to come across the frontier from Persia."

Another telegram of the same date states that the Shekaki, a tribe of Persian Kurds, had crossed the frontier in considerable numbers into the Albag district (north of Giawar). The Kaïmakam had sent soldiers and some zaptiehs against them. This detachment was driven off after losing two of their numbers.

The latest telegram gives in full the text of a letter received from Sheikh Ubeydullah by the Vali, a translation of which I attach. Samih Pasha has received since arrival here a despatch from the Vali of Moosul, advising him to put no faith in the Sheikh's promises.

His Excellency Samih Pasha arrived here on the 23rd instant, and leaves to-day for Van.

His Excellency was sent off very suddenly by the Sublime Porte with orders to take the necessary steps for suppressing the Kurdish rebellion. En route from Trebizond to Erzeroum he received a telegram informing him that he had been nominated Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée in lieu of Dervish Pasha, promoted to the command of the Imperial Guard.

I paid a visit to his Excellency and had a long private interview with him. He returned the visit yesterday, when I took the opportunity of calling his Excellency's attention to that part of Captain Clayton's despatch where he alludes to the absence of reciprocal cordial relations between himself and the Vali of Van, and I begged his Excellency to speak in a friendly manner to the Vali of Van on the subject, and to endeavour to impress upon him that Her Majesty's Government and its Representatives are well disposed towards the Turkish Government and are equally actuated by wishes for its welfare, and equally with that of its subject races.

His Excellency, who had previously been speaking to me in very cordial terms of the

moral assistance afforded by Her Majesty's Government in the recent negotiations regarding the Greek frontier, promised to do what I asked him.

Samih Pasha has very little more information on the subject of the Kurdish rebellion than what I have already communicated to your Lordship.

He seems disposed to thinks that the affair will be easily settled. I am myself of opinion that he underestimates the importance of the insurrection. He has sent to summon Sheikh Ubeydullah to meet him at Van. If he obeys the summons, the insurrection may perhaps be considered over. He has also summoned the Haideranlay Chief, Moussa Agha, to Van.

Three battalions from this neighbourhood have been placed unders order to march immediately to Van, and a complete brigade is being prepared at Erzinjian to be sent to Van in case of necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, September 10, 1879.

Sir,

SINCE my last despatch I have received some further information about the state of affairs in Hakkiari from the late Kaïmakam of Gawur (or Gevver) who called upon me yesterday. He gave me a description of the outbreak of the revolt, corresponding closely with that contained in my last despatch, with the further detail that he had made his first expedition against the Herekli (or Herki) Kurds on account of orders received from Constantinople to investigate the sacking by these Kurds of a large (?) Nestorian convent, Mar Shamoun having appealed to the English Consul at Teheran, who represented the case to the Ambassador at Constantinople.

He also informed me that the wish of Sheikh Abdullah (or Ubeydullah) is to form an independent Principality of the country inhabited by the Kurds, undertaking to pay as tribute the amount now levied in taxes by the Turkish Government. He thinks from the feebleness of the present Administration in these parts that now is a favourable time for making an attempt to obtain independence, but at the same time he keeps himself in the background, remaining at home whilst his tribe are in the field, and, according to the Kaïmakam, has sent a letter to the Vali Pasha professing loyalty, and saying that he is not responsible for what has taken place; that some troops sent from Moosul were the aggressors, as they maltreated the people so that he was obliged to send his son to remonstrate, and that the soldiers fired on his son's party, killing several and wounding his son.

In the meantime, however, he is trying to raise the other tribes, and the Kaïmakam believes that he has about 5,000 men in the neighbourhood of Gevver, but there are nearly 3,000 Turkish troops between Bashkala and Gevver, quite sufficient to suppress the insurrection if the Government would permit them to act with energy. The tribes are badly armed and poorly supplied with ammunition, and have great fear of the soldiers.

Since the Kaïmakam's first expedition against the Herki Kurds at least one engagement has taken place between the military and the Kurds, in which the latter were defeated. But the Kaïmakam does not believe that the Government will act with vigour. He says that his reward for acting with energy against the Herki Kurds has been dismissal from his post.

He considers Mar Shamoun and the Nestorians to be in a very critical position, surrounded by disaffected and excited Kurds. But there is a battalion of infantry at Julamerk striving to keep open the communications with that place.

I can obtain no information whatever as to what is going on from the Vali Pasha, who professes to have received no news of any importance from the seat of the disturbances.

I receive continual complaints of fresh robberies and outrages on the part of the Kurds. On Sunday evening last some people came to me who had been robbed and almost stripped within an hour's distance from the city. I cannot hear of any attempt being made to prevent or punish these disorders.

I am told the Kurds taunt those they rob, and tell them to go and obtain redress from the foreigners.

I yesterday spoke very earnestly to the Vali Pasha on the subject, and I have also written to him, noting some of the recent crimes committed and miscarriages of justice,

and expressing a hope that he would be able to investigate the cases and see justice done.

In his conversation, however, he makes light of the condition of affairs, saying that matters here must not be expected to be as they are in Europe; that such things are of every-day occurrence, and must not be looked upon as serious; that, moreover, a great deal is done to restrain and punish the Kurds, and that all reports which reach me to the contrary are false. I cannot, however, reject the weight of assertion that comes upon me from all sides that the great majority, if not all of the complaints, made to the authorities meet with no notice whatever.

It becomes every day more and more clear to me that the Pasha is not competent to deal with the present very difficult and critical state of affairs.

He seems to resent the arrival of Europeans, and to identify himself with the fanatical and anti-progressive Mussulmans of the place, who look with abhorrence on European interference and the prospect of a change in the old order of things. Consequently, though outwardly polite, he gives me no assistance in obtaining information as to the state of affairs, and I have not been able, much as I have wished it, to establish cordial reciprocity with him in the discussion of the necessities of the country and the measures required to improve its condition.

Meanwhile almost complete anarchy reigns in the country districts.

Within the last few days two Russian Armenians have arrived here from Tiflis, sent by a society there to select suitable localities for the establishment of a training school for teachers and an agricultural school.

They inform me that on crossing the frontier they found that the Armenian peasantry were all looking to Russia for deliverance from their present suffering condition, thinking that as the Russians had freed the Bulgarians they would do the same by the Armenians. They, however, who came from Russia knew that it was vain to expect assistance from that direction, and that their only hope must be from other quarters. Enlightened Armenians do not seek for autonomy, they said, but would be content with the amount of liberty they at present enjoy, if they could only be secure from outrage and robbery, and could be sure of having equal justice dealt them.

In Turkey they have intellectual and moral liberty, but are physically oppressed; in Russia they have material prosperity, but are slaves morally and intellectually.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, R.A.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, September 13, 1879.

Sir,

I RECEIVED a visit yesterday from two Nestorians, who had just arrived from Julamerk.

They informed me that the Kurds in that neighbourhood are unable to join the rebel Sheikh, as the passes are in the possession of the military, but that they are very much excited, and are committing great depredations, and plundering the villages. They also said that, though the Sheikh's people have been defeated with heavy loss, he is continually receiving fresh reinforcements, and they told me that the Kurds have been profoundly moved by the advent of European Consuls at Van. They regard this event with mixed feelings, partly of resentment and partly of fear, because they do not know what it may portend for them. If they see no result ensue it is to be feared that they will be encouraged in their evil ways.

I hear that the Mufti of Van has been sent on a mission to Sheikh Ubeydullah, to try and effect an arrangement with him, and the report has also reached me that it is the intention of the authorities to arrest and banish some of the most notorious Kurdish Chiefs, but I have heard nothing officially.

I believe that a little timely severity in a few cases would do a great deal towards the restoration of order and the maintenance of tranquillity and security for the future, as it is in my opinion only the confidence of being able to plunder and commit outrages with impunity, which has brought the Kurds to their present pitch of lawlessness. If they once saw the reins of Government strongly and firmly held, I think they would submit and behave well, without any wholesale measures of severity, though there might be some difficulty with the wandering tribes in the debateable ground on the frontier between

Turkey and Persia, and it would be of course necessary to exercise great firmness in the suppression of the present open revolt.

I shall, therefore, be very glad if the report that the Administration has determined to act with vigour proves true, and it shows itself able to disregard the men in whom robbers and evil-doers have hitherto found powerful protectors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, R.A.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Sheikh Ubeydullah to the Vali of Van.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *22nd day of Ramazan.*

I HAVE received your letter, and am much obliged to you for it. I have sent my son Abd-ul-Kader to the down-country tribes. He has informed me that the Imperial troops in that quarter, *i.e.*, in the direction of Amadia (Moosul Vilayet) have plundered and burned several villages, have killed many of the inhabitants, and violated their wives. My son had received instructions from me to endeavour, on arrival at the spot, to reconcile the opposing parties. The Imperial troops have not listened to him, but the tribes in general have ceased hostilities, and have retired.

My son has been able to set free some of the soldiers who were taken by the Kurds. If the Government examines the said prisoners the conduct of my son Abd-ul-Kader will be correctly described. Ill-disposed people have given a very different version of the state of affairs to the Imperial Government I intreat your Excellency not to listen to those falsehoods, but on the contrary, that after having informed the Sublime Porte of the true state of the case you will seize these ill-natured persons, and put them in prison. Inform the Government that I am more faithful than ever. I trust that your Excellency will take into serious consideration my present statement, and that I am ready to make many sacrifices for the sake of tranquillity, and ready to carry out the orders of the Government. This day I am dispatching to you my son Seiyud Mahommed Seid, to prove to you my complete submission.

I hope that the unfounded calumnies of intriguers regarding me will not be listened to. I have pleasure in thinking that your own Envoy, Abubeker Effendi, will confirm all that I have told you. According to your orders I have sent a messenger to recal my son Abd-ul-Kader, who went to reconcile the contending parties I hope that henceforward events like these will never again occur, and that your repose will not be disturbed.

(Signed) UBEYDULLAH.

No. 3.

Acting Vice-Consul Marenga to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Trébizonde, le 17 Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Seigneurie que le 14 courant le bateau à vapeur de l'Etat "Ismaïl" à mouillé dans notre rade, ayant à son bord le Maréchal Samih Pacha.

Son Excellence est parti le même jour pour le Kourdistan, où il doit s'occuper des réformes dans cette contrée.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) T. E. MARENGA.

No. 4.

Acting Vice-Consul Marenga to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Trébizonde, le 17 Septembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Seigneurie que le 13 courant est arrivée ici provenant de Constantinople le Colonel d'Etat-Major Iskender Bey, se rendant à Erzinghian pour l'organisation de la gendarmerie.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) T. E. MARENGA.

No. 5.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 857.) *Therapia, October 3*, 1879.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral relative to the state of affairs in the Province of Angora.

I have addressed a representation to the Porte on the subject of the conduct of the Mutessarif of Kighserai, as reported in the first of these despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, September 27, 1879.
Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that the Governor-General of this province, Khoorshood Pasha, desires me to report the conduct of the Mutessarif of Kighserai. Robbery and brigandage, accompanied with violence in several instances, have been of frequent occurrence in the neighbourhood of the town; a noted bandit, popularly known as "Tek. Tashakli," has been the most conspicuous of these.

The Mutessarif was censured by the Governor-General for the disorderly state of his district, and his slackness in failing to arrest those bandits. In reply, he excused himself by saying that he had not a sufficient force of zaptiehs, and demanding that reinforcements should be sent him from Angora.

It was pointed out to him, however, that he had a larger number of these at his disposal than were available in Angora, and that he had nothing to do but make a good use of those he had. He then changed his ground, and, through Vice-Consul Cooper, requested that categoric orders should be sent him to arrest the bandit referred to and the other robbers composing his band, stating that were such precise instructions sent him the brigands could easily be secured.

In a despatch dated 16th September, Vice-Consul Cooper requested me to convey this request officially to the Governor-General. His Excellency expressed his great surprise that the Mutessarif of Kighserai should be so ignorant of his simplest duties as to make such an application, more especially as the instructions he asked for had been sent him, and were in his possession for weeks past; moreover, his choice of such an extraordinary mode of making that application as to send it by means of two foreign officials seemed to his Excellency to indicate a desire to lose time, and so allow the offenders to escape.

His Excellency assured me, further, that he had been under the necessity of complaining frequently to the Porte of similar misconduct on the part of this Mutessarif, but as he seems to have influential friends in high office there these complaints receive no attention.

The Governor-General hoped that should your Excellency see fit to make representations to the Grand Vizier, through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that an inquiry would be ordered which would certainly result in the Mutessarif being superseded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, September 27, 1879.
Sir,

REFERRING to the accompanying Report on the state of public order and security in the Sandjak of Kighserai, I beg to call your Excellency's attention to the following details regarding the equally deplorable state of the other sandjaks of this province:—

In the neighbourhood of Yozgat bands of Circassians commit robberies close up to the gates of the town. At Kürsheïr groups of war refugees lately settled there levy

"black mail" on passing travellers. Large numbers of merchants, and valuable caravans of merchandize are to-day leaving this city to attend what is called the "Panagire," or open-air autumn fair, which takes place near Tchangora, thirty hours' distant from this city.

The number of these merchants is this year greatly reduced owing to the insecure state of the roads, and those who do not venture go in companies armed to the teeth with guns, revolvers, swords, and daggers, resembling more cavalry about to make an advance into an enemy's country than peaceable merchants intending to engage in commerce.

To the southward the roads are no less insecure; a party of American travellers travelling from Broussa to Angora, were stopped a few days ago by a party of nine Circassians at Pazarjik, a village near the Angora frontier, and robbed in broad daylight on the main highway of £ T. 15 in money and all their spare clothing.

In the town of Angora itself a disturbance occurred between a Turkish rabble and a number of Italians—the first arrival of an emigrant colony of that nation—who intended to settle here; they include farm labourers and tradesmen, and are so active, intelligent, and orderly that their services were in great demand, and there was every appearance of their prospering.

Their Turkish neighbours, however, who fear that their crafts would be in danger were the number of these emigrants augmented have, it seems, been watching an opportunity to molest them; and on the 8th September current, on the frivolous pretext that one of the Italians had cut off a branch of a tree belonging to a Turk, made a combined attack on the houses and workshops occupied by those emigrants, smashed in the doors, destroyed or stole their tools, and carried off all the money and clothing they could lay hands on.

One of the Italians attempted to intimidate the rioters by presenting a pistol, which, however, he had not had time to load. The Italian Vice-Consul, Dr. Gasparini, took up the case, but on being carried before the Turkish "Cadi," or Judge, that official declined to give a verdict against the rioters unless the Moslem witnesses were forthcoming. As intimidation has been freely resorted to, no Moslem dare come forward, and the Cadi now wishes to dismiss the case on the ground that as the Italians admit showing fire-arms there were apparently faults on both sides.

The Italian Vice-Consul protests against this course, and has applied to his Embassy for instructions. He has, further, demanded from the Local Government a guarantee for the safety and protection of his fellow countrymen, but this the authorities decline to do, on the usual plea that they must await orders from the Porte before doing so.

Dr. Gasparini finds himself compelled therefore to advise the emigrants here to leave without delay, as they are in constant danger of a fresh attack, and also to inform the intending emigrants about to leave Italy that the enterprize must be abandoned. I take every opportunity of calling the Governor-General's attention to this deplorable state of matters, but his Excellency always replies by throwing all the blame on the inefficiency of zaptieh force and the slackness of the officers commanding it. His Excellency at the same time partly excuses them on the plea that the demands for money from the Treasury are so numerous and persistent that he is forced to remit every available para to the Capital, and the zaptieh force is in consequence neither regularly paid nor properly clothed. The impecuniosity of the local Treasury is such that previous to the recent Bairam holiday the Governor-General was obliged to borrow a few hundreds from a local merchant at 1 per cent. interest per week in order to distribute amongst the officials and zaptiehs a small instalment of their salaries, now four months overdue. Otherwise, his Excellency had reason to fear that something like a general strike would take place.

The new staff of legal officials, consisting of Chief Inspector of Law Courts, and five Deputy Inspectors; Procurateur-Général, with five deputies, have now all been appointed, and are supposed to have all been at work for some weeks. I fail to discover, however, that they have made the least impression on the heavy roll of unsettled lawsuits, many of which have been in suspense for years, whilst suitors in recent lawsuits, both civil and criminal, complain that the difficulties and delays of legal procedure are increased rather than diminished, whilst the necessity for making indirect payments in order to insure progress or gain a verdict is greatly augmented.

It must be added that the salaries of this new staff constitute a permanent charge on the revenues of the province of no less than £ T. 18,000 per annum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 6.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 863.) *Therapia, October* 5, 1879.

My Lord,

MR. VICE-CONSUL GATHERAL having reported to Sir Henry Layard, in the month of June last, numerous cases of robbery and brigandage which had taken place in the Province of Angora, and pointed out the inefficiency of the police force, and its inability to deal with the evil, his Excellency called the serious attention of the Porte to the matter. I have now received a note from Safvet Pasha, in which his Highness seeks to place the condition of the province in a more favourable light; but I regret to say that the statements contained in this note are hardly borne out by the recent reports of Mr. Gatheral, of which I send your Lordship copies by the present messenger.

I inclose copy of Safvet Pasha's note on the subject, together with a copy of Mr. Gatheral's despatch of the 14th June last, on which Sir Henry Layard's representation to the Porte was founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 4 *Octobre*, 1879.

A la suite du mémoire remis par l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, le 21 Juin dernier, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères s'est adressé au Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Angora, pour lui demander des renseignements précis sur la police de la province et les actes de brigandage qui s'y commettraient.

En réponse, son Excellence Khourchid Pacha a transmis à la Sublime Porte un état détaillé de la situation du vilayet, sous le rapport de la sécurité publique, et des moyens dont la police dispose pour la maintenir. Les faits cités par le Vice-Consul d'Angora ont été également soumis à une enquête, qui a eu pour résultat de les rétablir ainsi qu'il suit:—L'employé du Vice-Consulat, dévalisé à Hamidié, n'a pas été attaqué par des voleurs, mais par son propre compagnon de route, qui, à la suite d'une querelle, lui prit son fusil et son argent. Aussitôt arrêté le coupable a été condamné à quatre mois de prison, au paiement d'une amende, et à la restitution des objets volés.

Pour ce qui concerne Oli Oglou et ses complices, ils ont été vigoureusement poursuivis par les gendarmes, et quatre d'entre eux sont déjà entre les mains de l'autorité. On espère pouvoir sous peu se rendre maître des autres. On s'occupe également de la sûreté de la route de Samsoun à Kaisenih; les brigands qui l'infestaient ont été attaqués, et ont fui en laissant un des leurs sur le terrain. Le Vice-Consul Anglais avait raison de dire que la police d'Angora n'avait pu envoyer à Yuzzal le contingent demandé, mais il convient d'ajouter que pour y suppléer on a donné ordre aux autorités locales de ce district de lever elles-mêmes le nombre de zaptiés qui leur était nécessaire.

Quant au nombre des gendarmes de la province, il n'est que de 845 hommes. Ce nombre suffisant d'ailleurs ne saurait être augmenté même en enrôlant des Chrétiens, vu l'exiguïté des ressources budgétaires. Cependant la police d'Angora n'a pas eu à souffrir des mesures économiques adoptées par le Trésor Impérial, et les gendarmes n'ont jamais manqué de vêtements, comme on le prétend; on songe, il est vrai, à réduire les dépenses, mais ces réductions porteront sur d'autres matières, comme, par exemple, sur le nombre et les appointements des officiers.

Les détails qui précèdent convaincront l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique que la situation de la police et de la sécurité publique dans le Vilayet d'Angora n'est pas telle que la présente dans ses Rapports M. le Vice-Consul Anglais au chef-lieu de la province.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, June 16, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency regarding the following cases of brigandages, robbery with violence, &c., that have occurred recently in this province.

1. Having some payments to make in a town called Kürsheir, 30 hours or 110 miles from here, a young employé of my own called "Sava," of Greek parentage, but singularly honest and energetic, volunteered to carry the money. I entrusted him with it but urged him to take a soldier with him, but he declined, as he said he was more afraid of such an escort than of the brigands with which the roads were said to be infested. He set out on Saturday last and on Wendesday I had a telegram, from a correspondent, that "Sava" had been set upon during the night at a village called Hamid, 8 hours or 30 miles from Kürsheir, and robbed of 30 liras out of the 50 he carried. I gather from the telegram that he had fought stoutly for the money, and the thieves had only succeeded after overpowering and wounding him. On informing the Government stringent orders were at once forwarded to the Mutessarif of Kürsheir and the Colonel commanding the zaptiehs there, to pursue and capture the brigands and recover the property, but unless these orders are more promptly executed than they usually are there is little likelihood of any result.

2. In the district of Yabanabat, a village called "Koort," 14 hours from Angora, on the 5th instant, two travelling pedlars were resting while grazing their horses, and were suddenly attacked by four mounted Circassians and robbed of horses, stock of prints, and the money they had with them, the total value being estimated at 60*l*. The men robbed were Armenian Catholics belonging to the town of Angora, "Tchinleru-oglou Fran" and "Hoveyjee."

3. In the "Gudul" district, 10 hours to the north-westward, a criminal called Allolo, who broke prison successfully two years ago, still roams the country with two Circassians bandits robbing with violence all who travel in that direction. A Captain of zaptiehs with twenty mounted soldiers have been in search of this band for nearly three months, but have failed to capture them, indeed it is alleged they make no effort to do so, their object being apparently to live at free quarters in the villages, of which the villagers complain bitterly.

4. At Boghazlian between Yozgat and Kigheseral, a band of ten mounted Circassians coming from the Sivas region lie in wait to rob the mule caravans going from Samsoon to Kigherai. The Yozgat Government telegraphed to Angora for twenty-five zaptiehs to be sent out to disperse this band but the Provincial Government replied that they had no zaptiehs to send, and that the Yozgat authorities must do the best they could, if need be, enrolling the extra zaptiehs themselves.

I recite these detailed cases in order to call your Excellency's attention to the increasing weakness and inefficiency of this zaptieh force. For the entire Province of Angora, with an area nearly as large as England, the Government has at its disposal 780 foot and 1,000 mounted police. These would almost suffice if they were disciplined and efficient, but this they are far from being. Their pay is as follows: for foot soldiers 80 piastres beshlik per month, or 13*s*., and for mounted soldiers, 120 piastres beshlik, or a lira less than 20*s*. per month. The mounted soldiers receive 3 okes barley and 4 okes chopped straw in addition.

The cost of uniform, about 3*l*. 3*s*., is deducted from these wages and is consequently postponed as long as possible with the result that the force has been reclothed twice in twelve years. They are all Moslems; most of them have two, three, or four wives with families in proportion, and it is clearly impossible that they can live on their wages and be honest at the same time. Few of them make any pretence to honesty, and they tell me quite frankly that they cannot live on their income and have to supplement it how, when and where they can. Many abuses occur in consequence; for instance, sent to serve a warrant the person wanted gets quit of the warrant by giving the zaptieh who brings it a present to say he cannot be found, nor is he found till the opposing party gives a still bigger present to bring him. The Government must be well aware of all this but seems powerless to prevent it.

On Wednesday last this Provincial Government received a telegram from the Porte that they must consider some plan of reducing the expense of the zaptieh establishment by at least one-half, but they replied stating their total inability to suggest any mode of doing so.

The cure for these evils seems to be in the direction of opening the ranks to Christians as well as Moslems, to reducing the number and pay of the officers, both being out of proportion to the numbers of rank and file, and in the appointment of European drill instructors and inspectors, who would soon make something of the really good raw material of which the force is composed. The money would in my opinion be forthcoming, for the Christians at all events would cheerfully pay an increased tax to have public safety secured and be rid of the indirect exactions they are exposed to, these being often of the most oppressive and annoying description.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 7.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Mulet.

(No. 1261.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 848 of the 28th ultimo, and I have to state to you in reply that I approve your having communicated to his Highness Safvet Pasha a translation of Captain Clayton's despatch No. 4, Political, of the 29th August, reporting on the critical state of affairs at Van.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 49. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, October* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have received a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Boyajian at Diarbekir, dated the 8th September, in which he informs me of the departure of the First Imperial Commissioner, his Excellency Abeddin Bey, to take up his new appointment as Vali of Sivas.

It appears that Abeddin Bey's appointment as Imperial Commissioner of Reforms for the provinces of Diarbekir, Sivas, and Kharpoot has been extended for a period of three years.

His Excellency, on leaving, expressed his intention of returning to Diarbekir early in November. Mr. Boyajian urges, for your Lordship's consideration, the desirability of putting pressure on the Porte to obtain the nomination of a fresh Commissioner for the reforms of the Vilayet of Diarbekir, on the grounds that it is impossible that Abeddin Bey can satisfactorily officiate both as Vali of Sivas and as Commissioner for the reforms of these provinces.

As mentioned by me in a former despatch, the reform campaign has been directed solely against the Kurdish Aghas.

The corrupt officials, such as the ex-Mutessarifs of Mardin and Sert, the Kaimakam of Jezireh, Nischin, and Midiat, many of whose misdeeds I have exposed in former despatches, reside at Diarbekir, "enjoying the esteem and confidence of the highest authorities."

Meanwhile, I learn here from another source that the expatriated Kurdish Chiefs have been for the present located at Aleppo, and that there is at present no intention of sending them to Albania; further, that they are intriguing with the Constantinople authorities to obtain permission to return to their homes. It is most desirable, in the interests of the country, that his Excellency the Ambassador's influence at Constantinople should be employed to prevent any such permission being granted, as otherwise the state of the Rayah population will be, if possible, far worse than before.

Mr. Boyajian writes:—

"I am afraid of a reaction amongst the Kurds, and even now I hear that some of them are threatening to exterminate the Christians, saying that these Giours have been the cause of the banishment of their Chiefs."

I add some further extracts from Mr. Boyajian's despatch:—

"On the night of the 2nd instant thirteen more Kurdish Chiefs (the fourth party) and last night twenty-five persons more were sent into exile to Albania. In the fourth party were two Christians from Midiat."

N.B.—These two Christians, I recollect, were implicated in the late rebellion of the sons of Beder Khan Bey.

"Those who accompanied Abeddin Pasha as far as Maden to see him off returned this morning. They tell me that, while at Maden, his Excellency received a telegram from the Minister of Justice, informing him that four of the persons recommended by his Excellency as Procureurs-General and Vice-President of the Criminal Courts have not been approved. Abeddin Pasha thinks that they have been refused through my writing to you; but, nevertheless, he said he is very glad of it. I am very much pleased that it has been so, as they are the worst men that I know in this town."

"The news from the regions of Palu is very alarming; the Christians there are left altogether unprotected; they are robbed and killed; but the Mutessarifs both of Kharpoot and Maden are not moving their finger for their protection. Many of them came to Diarbekir to lay their case before the Commissioners, and obtained strong orders, but without any effect. I have in my pocket several letters from these regions; if the things are half as bad as they represent them to be, their condition must be very intolerable. I particularly begged Abeddin Pasha to see after their cases in passing through Kharpoot; he very kindly promised to do so."

With reference to this last paragraph, I have to state that the accounts given me by an American missionary, who arrived here recently from Kharpoot, and who passed through the Palu district, give a more favourable account of the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 9.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 50. Political.) *Erzeroum, October* 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch No. 10 of the 19th September addressed to me by Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, from which your Lordship will observe that that officer has been compelled to desist for the present from carrying out his proposed visit to the Nestorian country. It is, however, satisfactory to learn that, in Captain Clayton's opinion, it appears that the danger of a serious combined rising of the Kurds had passed away for the present.

No news of importance has transpired here lately from the disturbed districts of Hekkiari. His Excellency Sunith Pasha arrived yesterday at Chynyo, *en route* for Van. Seven battalions are under orders from Erzinjian to reinforce the troops in the Van Vilayet.

A telegram was received here yesterday from Van stating that the courier of the Russian Vice-Consulate, returning to that city from the Persian frontier, was plundered by Kurds, while a traveller belonging to his party was wounded.

Another telegram states that Beshos, a noted Kurdish Chief of Sasun (trans-Modki Musch Sandjak), had been taken prisoner by the soldiery who were employed in clearing that district of nomad Kurdish plunderers.

Accounts from Musch continue to represent the state of that province as most unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—A letter from Van of the 20th September received here states that a panic occurred in the town on that day, and that all the shops were closed, fear being entertained that the bazaar was to be plundered and the Christians massacred. I do not imagine there was anything very serious the matter, or I should have heard from Captain Clayton by telegraph.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Van, September* 19, 1879.

ON the 14th September I sent to you the following telegram: "Sheikh Ubeydullah has been defeated, but receives continual reinforcements. The Mufti has been sent to him to try to make terms. I hope to start to visit Mar Shamouri Monday 22nd. He appears at present neutral;" and on the 18th September I thus telegraphed: "Revolt seems nearly subdued. Sheikh Ubeydullah ostensibly proffers submission. Still, disturbances continue towards Mosul."

I sent the last telegram in consequence of the Vali Pasha having informed me, when I called on him the day before yesterday, that he had received good news from Hakkiari, that the Kurds had been severely defeated and were much discouraged, and that Sheikh Ubeydullah had expressed to the Envoy sent by the Pasha his loyalty and willingness to submit to the authority of the Turkish Government.

I have heard from other sources that the Sheikh is at home in Nèra, but that his son has gone in the direction of Mosul to encounter some troops that have been sent from thence, and that the heavy defeats sustained by the Kurds were no doubt the cause of the insurrection not having assumed greater dimensions. It appears, however, that bodies of Kurds under minor chieftains, vassals of Sheikh Ubeydullah, are overrunning the district of Gevver, robbing and spoiling all the inhabitants, Moslems and Christians alike.

On the whole, it appears as if the danger of a serious combined rising of the Kurds had passed away for the present; but much desultory disturbance continues, and it remains to be seen whether the Sheikh's professions of loyalty and submission are sincere. I am informed, however, that the authorities here have received telegraphic orders from Constantinople to act strenuously and energetically against him if he does not submit, and that more troops are ordered to proceed to Hakkiari.

In the meantime, isolated robberies and outrages on the part of the Kurds are increasing in number on all sides. I have just had some men with me who came to report the murder by Kurds of their brother in a village only two hours distant from here; and every day complaints of robberies, ill-treatment, and threats to murder are brought to me. I am told that the Government has at last been stirred up to an attempt to repress the prevailing lawlessness, and are taking measures to punish some of the crimes recently committed, and I hope that the information will prove well-founded.

It came to my knowledge yesterday morning that a resolution had been taken by the Armenian members of the various Medjlisses in this place to resign in a body as a sort of protest against the wrongs suffered by their countrymen, or, as they themselves put it, to relieve themselves from all responsibility for the existing misgovernment. It appeared to me that such a course would be most unwise, as tending to irritate the Turkish authorities, and give them an excuse for representing the Armenians as seditious; and I therefore called on the Archbishop, and, meeting at his house some of the Armenian notables, I with some difficulty induced them to postpone acting on their resolution, at all events for a time. To-day the Mouavin told my dragoman that he was very grateful to me for the course I had pursued, and said that the resignation of these officials, if it had been carried out, would have profoundly angered the Turks, and might even have led to an outbreak.

The Persian Consul told me two days ago that the cause of Sheikh Ubeydullah's disaffection was this: He was originally a Persian subject in receipt of a subsidy from the Persian Government. When the Russian war broke out the Kurds, wishing to fight for their co-religionists, induced him to offer his services to the Turkish Government, which promised him a money payment. Upon this, the Persian Government, wishing to preserve strict neutrality, withdrew their subsidy, and the Turks not having paid what they promised the Sheikh has lost his Persian income without gaining anything in lieu, and is consequently much irritated.

I have, &c
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 10.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 20.*)

(No. 51. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 2, 1879.

My Lord,

CAPTAIN EVERETT, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Erzeroum, returned on the 28th September from an inspection tour in the Province of Bayazid. His Report thereon will be submitted to your Excellency as soon as it is ready.

Referring to my despatch No. 41, Political, of the 13th September, on the subject of the non-presence at his post of the new Mutessarif of Bayazid, I have the honour to state that Ibrahim Bey, the newly-appointed Mutessarif (late Governor of the Suleimanieh Province in the Vilayet of Mosul), proceeded to take up his appointment rather more than a week ago.

I had three interviews with him during the few days he was in Erzeroum, and had long conversations with him on the state of the country.

Captain Everett, in his recent inspection tour in the Bayazid Sandjak, had written to inform me of the pitiable state of its inhabitants, and of the urgent need there was of immediate steps being taken to provide grain for sowing in many parts of the district. I have done all that lies in my power to impress both on the Wali Pasha and on the new Mutessarif the extreme importance of steps being at once taken to remedy the existing deficiency of grain by abstaining from taking the tithes in kind in some instances, by remitting them altogether in others, and in importing gratuitously from more favoured districts in such cases when the necessity is apparent. Both these officials have solemnly promised to do their utmost to relieve the existing distress, and, if they carry out their promises, all will yet be well. The Wali told me this morning that he had already counter-ordered a demand previously made on the Pasin district for 2,000 somars of wheat and an equivalent amount of barley.

The new Mutessarif is a man of ability, and, apparently, of energy, and if he only acts up to his words, I trust that the existing state of maladministration, extreme poverty, and general insecurity may be replaced by a happier state of things.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 11.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 20.*)

(No. 52. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 3, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Imperial Commission of Reforms for the Erzeroum and Van Vilayets proceeds so apathetically with its work, that it is not often I have to trouble your Lordship with any remarks on it. The preliminary investigation into the state of affairs of Keghi has been dragging its slow length along. The Commissioners, after four months' study of the question, are of opinion that, in many instances, fraudulent means have been used by the Aghas to obtain possession of lands to which they have no right, and the question of the legality of the existing tenure has been referred to the local Tribunals, which are all in the most complete confusion; owing to the recent ill-considered change in the judicial department. After much discussion and delay, it has been decided that these territorial cases are to be brought before the Mekhemet-i-Bedayet.

Up to the present time this Court has been unable to meet owing to its two newly-appointed unsalaried members being, one in Constantinople and the other at Erzinjan. These absent members have turned up within the last day or two, just to learn by a telegram received yesterday that new salaried Judges are to be appointed, to be elected by the people. These elections will occupy at least two, but more probably six months, and the present unsalaried Judges are to continue to act until the new incumbents are elected. The same telegram informs the actual working members of the Court, *i.e.*, the Chief Clerks, &c., that their salaries are to be reduced all round; in one instance, that of the most competent official in Erzeroum, the reduction is from 1,200 to 600 piastres a-month.

As most of the local officials are only too willing to thwart the little that is attempted in the way of reform by the Imperial Commissioners, he would be a bold person who would predict, in the present frightful confusion, that the unfortunate suppliants from Keghi are likely to obtain justice.

It is not yet decided whether the evidence taken before the Commission will be admitted as valid by the Court of Justice. Should it not be admitted I do not think justice will ever be obtained, as the petitioners, after remaining here four months, during which time two of their number have died, are not likely to be able or willing to stay on here during the winter to press their claims, and, even if they were to do so, it is very doubtful whether the result would be in their favour. On the other hand, should this evidence be admitted, as I trust it may, it is possible that, within the next few weeks, a satisfactory decision may be arrived at.

With reference to the criminal charges brought against the Begs, the preliminary investigation of the Commission will, I hope, be completed to-day. Both Commissioners are convinced of the truth of the charges, but state that, according to their instructions, they have no alternative but to send the cases for trial to the local Tribunals, and, when the disorganized state of the said Tribunals is taken into consideration, it is impossible to say when the trial will come off and what the result of it may be.

I believe the Commissioners are both honestly anxious that the affair may be carried through in a satisfactory manner, as they feel that if it is not, they have actually nothing to show as the result of at least five months' labour; but, with the lack of all support from Constantinople, and the opposition of the greater number of the officials here, it is very doubtful whether they will succeed.

The Kaïmakam of Tepir has been in prison here for some weeks on a charge of attempting to bribe one of the Secretaries of the Commission. There are numerous other charges that have been preferred against him, and, if the charge of bribery breaks down, which it probably will, there is ample evidence to condemn him for other irregularities, and, as the Commissioners have hitherto successfully resisted the efforts of the local officials to obtain his release, it is to be hoped that their Excellencies also intend to push his case to a final and satisfactory settlement.

A Sub-Commission has been formed within the last three days, presided over by Liva Munir Pasha, to enrol men for the new gendarmerie. The Commissioners are still waiting for the appointment of a competent Chief from Constantinople. As I have over and over again informed his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, both by letter and telegram, that the new gendarmerie will probably be a total failure unless an European be appointed to command it, it is unnecessary that I should enlarge on that point.

I understand that the Commissioners have represented to the Sublime Porte that, in the present disturbed state of the Van Vilayet, it will be useless their proceeding there this winter. I think it therefore probable that they will winter in Trebizond—doubtless a much pleasanter place than Van or Erzeroum in which to spend the inclement season.

As far as the actual reformation of this country is concerned, I do not think it is very material where they pass the winter. The best place of all would probably be Constantinople, as there would then be an end to the idea, if it exists, that the Porte is really carrying out reforms in these provinces.

The only point I would suggest is, that his Excellency the Ambassador should urge the Porte to give the most positive instructions to the Commissioners not to leave Erzeroum until the affairs of Geghi have been decided by the local Tribunals. The anxiety to avoid the discomforts of a very severe winter in Erzeroum, added to an honest wish, for the sake of their own reputations, to see justice done in this particular matter, would probably stimulate the Imperial Commissioners to push the matter forward as rapidly as the local adverse circumstances will permit.

Their presence here, moreover, affords a check to misgovernment and corruption, and would decidedly exercise a beneficial effect on the organization of the new gendarmerie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 12.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 20.*)

(No. 53. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of my despatch No. 99 of the 3rd October to Her Majesty's Ambassador, on the subject of my

proposed departure from Erzeroum in a fortnight's time for Diarbekir viâ Erzinjian, Sivas, and Kharput.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Erzeroum, October 3, 1879.

Sir,

THE near approach of winter, and the difficulties and discomforts of travelling in that season in this country, makes it necessary that I should soon decide on my own plans for the next few months. I have stayed on thus late at Erzeroum, as I did not like leaving it while affairs in Kurdistan were so very threatening, and while I thought I could be useful in urging action on the Imperial Commissioners. It appears, however, from the latest reports, that the Kurdish insurrection is not likely to develop into so serious a business as I had at one time anticipated, and the affairs of the Imperial Commission have now reached such a stage that I think I may safely confide the care of watching them to Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, who will spend the greater part of the winter in Erzeroum.

Her Majesty is well represented at Van by Captain Clayton, and it appears to me the best thing I can do will be to proceed to Diarbekir for the winter, especially as I understand that Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Boyajian intends resigning his appointment in consequence of the Porte refusing to recognize him as Vice-Consul.

I propose, therefore, leaving Erzeroum in a fortnight's time for Diarbekir, and shall do so unless unforeseen circumstances should occur to make me change my mind, or unless I should receive telegraphic instructions of a contrary nature from your Excellency.

I shall not go direct, but viâ Erzinjian and Kharput—parts of my jurisdiction that have not been visited by an European Consul for many years. If circumstances permit, I shall most probably pay a flying visit to Sivas, in order to communicate with Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia, whom it is very desirable for several reasons that I should meet. I should also have the opportunity of meeting and discussing reforms with Abeddin Pasha, Vali of Sivas and Imperial Commissioner of Reforms for Diarbekir Vilayet.

I should also very probably visit Malatia, an outlying and somewhat inaccessible province of the Diarbekir Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 13.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 874.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Porte a translation of Captain Clayton's despatch No. 9 of the 13th September last to Major Trotter on the subject of the Kurdish insurrection.

A copy of this despatch was forwarded to your Lordship in Major Trotter's despatch No. 48.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 14.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 877.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Amasia, Anatolia, October 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the substance of a telegram forwarded to your Excellency on the 23rd September last relative to a reprimand passed upon Abeddin Pasha by the Turkish Government.

On the 11th September I received, whilst at Aryarieh, a telegram from Abeddin Pasha informing me that he had sent thirteen prisoners, under sentence of banishment, to Constantinople, viâ Sivas and Samsun.

On my return to Sivas I was informed that the arrival of the prisoners in that town had created a profound impression, especially on the members of the "ring," whose notorious intrigues have brought one of the finest provinces in Anatolia to the verge of anarchy and ruin.

The prisoners were visited by most of the local notables, and I am informed that a telegram appealing against the decision of Abeddin Pasha was soon afterwards forwarded to the Bash Vahil (Prime Minister). This telegram is believed to have been prepared at the instigation of, and in concert with, Mehemet Ali and his friends. The result was that Abeddin Pasha was reprimanded by Aarifi Pasha in an open telegram, which, though addressed to Kharput, was soon known to everyone in Sivas. The success of the intrigue has since been regarded as a first triumph in the struggle between the Sivas "ring" and the new Governor-General, and it has necessarily increased the difficulties which the latter has to contend with.

I understand that Mehemet Ali and his party are prepared to push their opposition to the Vali to the utmost. They are perfectly unscrupulous in what they do; and unless Abeddin Pasha is vigorously supported at Constantinople, he will be unable to break their power.

The present state of the vilayet, upon which I hope to address your Excellency by the next mail, is deplorable in every sense, and unless order is introduced soon with a firm hand by a man capable of acting with energy and decision, I fear serious disturbances may be expected.

I trust that your Excellency will kindly use your great influence at the Porte in support of Abeddin Pasha; but I must ask that this despatch should be considered Secret, as my informants are afraid that the subject of their conversations with me may become known to the Turkish officials at Sivas. I believe the information supplied to me on this occasion to be correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 15.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 23, 10 A.M.)

(No. 705.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, October 22, 1879, 7·45 P.M.

I HAVE used the strongest language to-day to the new Prime Minister. I have warned him that, unless the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government be put into execution without delay, and Christians of Asia Minor receive full protection and their rights, Her Majesty's Government can no longer give further support to Turkey; that the

result will be that the Sultan's Throne and Empire will be in immediate danger. He was profuse in his promises to follow my advice in everything.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha has sent to beg me to allow one of my Dragomans to visit him, as he wishes to see me, and cannot do so unless this formality, which has been observed by all the other Missions, some of my colleagues having even called upon him, has been gone through. I shall do so, as I think it of great importance to see him, and not to break with him altogether.

Midhat Pasha has sent in his resignation. Sultan informs me that he will not accept it, and that he is highly satisfied with the way in which he is governing Syria. I have telegraphed to him, through Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, not to persist in his resignation, and I have warned Said Pasha of the very bad effect that his removal from it at this moment would have on the population of the province and on public opinion in England.

No. 16.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 708 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 4 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Mr. Eldridge, dated yesterday :—

"Midhat informed me that he had received a satisfactory telegram from the Sultan refusing his resignation. Affairs of the Hauran serious."

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 706.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 24, 1879, 4·3 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Damascus, dated 21st :—

"A disturbance in the Hauran between Mussulman and Druse villagers has resulted in authorities advocating cause of Mussulmans, and in massing all the available military and civil forces of province in the Hauran. Matters look grave, and collision imminent. Great military preparations."

Mr. Eldridge telegraphs yesterday that the affair of the Hauran looks serious. I have telegraphed through him to Midhat my earnest hope that he will settle affair without bloodshed, and have urged Porte to instruct him in same sense.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 263.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879, 4 P.M.*

YOURS No. 705.

Your language as to reforms is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 19.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1193.) *Foreign Office, October 25, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the warning which you have given to the new Turkish Prime Minister, as reported in your telegram No. 705 of the 22nd instant, as to the necessity for the promised reforms in Asia Minor being carried out without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 20.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 54. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 7, 1879.

My Lord,

IN a recent interview with the Wali Pasha, his Excellency gave me the following statistics as to the Mahommedan emigration from the territories recently annexed by Russia :

About 10,000 families have given notice of their intention to leave the Russian territory from the districts of Kars, Ardahan, and Kaghyman.

Of these, 3,878 families, numbering in all 23,498 souls, have already arrived in Erzeroum. Of these, 3,263 families have been forwarded to their intended destination.

The balance of about 600 families, consisting of comparatively well-to-do people, have received permission to settle in the City of Erzeroum.

The emigrants who have already entered the Erzeroum Vilayet have been disposed of as follows :—

	Souls.	
Erzeroum Vilayet—		
Erzeroum	3,073	
Baiburt	4,110	
Terjan	2,304	
Khanys	1,562	
Erzinjan	947	
Keghi	84	
Pasin	33	
Alashgerd	22	
		12,135
Van Vilayet—		
Van	19	
Bitlis	35	
Moush	830	
		884
Trébizond Vilayet—		
Gumushkhané	33	
Diarbekir Vilayet—		
Malatia	99	
Kharput Vilayet	19	
Sivas Vilayet	10,028	

The whole of the Circassian emigrants, fortunately for this province, have been sent to Sivas.

There is a small counter-emigration taking place of Greeks from Baiburt and Gumushkhané. Thirty families have applied for and received permission from the Porte to emigrate to Russia, and are now on the point of starting. The Russian Consul-General informed me yesterday that he believes the Governor of the Caucasus will welcome these Greeks, although it sets its face dead against receiving Armenian emigrants from Turkey.

The Russians are filling up the vacant homesteads of the Mahommedan emigrants as far as possible with pure Russians, Malagams, Cossacks, &c., and throw every obstacle in the way of the re-peopling of those districts by Armenians.

On the other hand, I understand that there is a desire on the part of many Armenians settled in Russia—emigrants subsequent to 1828-29—who are anxious to return to their old homes in the Valley of Alashgerd, Pasin, &c.

It is said that there are 2,000 families who wish to return next year if the Ottoman Government will give them lands. The Russian Government throws obstacles in the way of their leaving the country. 200 families of later emigrants had actually made their arrangements for returning this autumn, but the scarcity and dearness of grain, and the state of insecurity of the country, have combined to make these intending emigrants postpone their departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 21.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 18. Consular.)

Damascus, October 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of my despatch No. 24 to Her Majesty's Ambassador, dated the 8th instant, submitting a Report upon the Syrian gendarmerie and police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, October 8, 1879.

Sir,

IN compliance with the instructions with which your Excellency was recently pleased to honour me, I beg to submit herewith a Report I have drawn up upon the Syrian gendarmerie and police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Report upon the Gendarmerie and Police of Syria by Vice-Consul Jago, of Damascus.

PRIOR to the events of 1860 which convulsed Syria, the police force, both urban and rural, of the then Eyalet of Damascus, was commanded by an officer styled the Tufenkdji Bashi, having under his orders three Oda Bashis, with a total force of 150 horsemen and 120 foot.

The Tufendkji Bashi, who was appointed by the Pasha of Damascus, received 1,000 piastres a-month, and the three Oda Bashis 300, 200, and 150 piastres each respectively. The horse-police received 100 piastres per month, with rations, but supplied their own horses, clothing, and arms; the latter according to means and fancy. The foot received 80 piastres each, no rations; clothing and arms also supplied by themselves. Living in those days was comparatively cheap. The powers of the Tufenkdji Bashi extended to Damascus and its four rural districts, in the latter of which, however, no police force of any kind was stationed, the horsemen being quartered in Damascus for service when required between it and its rural districts, and the foot for town service only. At Homs and Hamah, then included within the Eyalet, an officer locally styled Tufenkdji Bashi, under the Mutsellim, with a force of fifteen to twenty men, was stationed. In the other Eyalets of Syria, namely, Tripoli, Acre, and Palestine, a similar system prevailed.

As regards Damascus, to the Tufenkdji Bashi were referred for settlement or arrangement by summary process all minor civil and criminal plaints, which naturally formed the majority of cases in which the people were interested. Matters of greater importance were referred by him to the Pasha's Kehya, who in like manner disposed of what he could, sending more complicated cases to the Tribunals for decision.

This system seems to have given satisfaction to the people, as affording a speedy, if rough and ready, mode of arriving at justice. The action of the Tufenkdji Bashi was controlled by public opinion, and by the power of appeal, in cases of injustice, to the Pasha, his Kehaya, and to the city Elders, who then wielded great influence in the local administration.

The districts, again, beyond the radius of Damascus and its four rural districts, were then practically independent; and their local chieftains often waged a desultory warfare with the soldiery quartered upon them when open rebellion or arrears of taxation became glaring.

After the events of 1860, which convulsed the country and produced anarchy and open rebellion and disorders, especially about Damascus, Hassan Bey (O'Reilly), Aide-de-camp of Fuad Pasha, enrolled, organized, and commanded about 800 men, as a

mounted gendarmerie, for service in the rural districts, but more especially in the Hauran against Bedouin and Druze. The discipline and effectiveness of this body were to be maintained by good and regular pay, paid by the cashier into every man's hand, but lack of the necessary funds ultimately obliged the commander to pass over in silence those direlictions of duty which he knew his men resorted to for sustenance for themselves and horses. And finally, in June 1863, Hassan Bey, being in a year's arrears of pay, his men nine months without wages, and he himself having incurred debts in his own name for the payment of some of his men, besides meeting with great opposition from the local authorities on account of his position, resigned, and left Syria.

On the establishment of the vilayet system shortly after, the total number of Syrian police, horse and foot, which then had gradually increased to between 2,000 and 3,000 men, was placed under the charge of Alaï Bey, a Colonel, appointed and sent from Constantinople by the Minister of Police. The laws of the vilayet system did away with the old summary procedure under the Tufenkdji Bashi, creating in its place a complicated system of laws, Regulations, Courts, and procedure; decreed that every plaint, civil or criminal, no matter how petty, should be made in writing to the Governor, who, in his turn, refers it to the competent Medjliss, which finally judges it, or again refers it to the police for preliminary action.

Owing, however, to the corruption, confusion, negligence, and delays in the Damascus Government offices, this new system—perfect, no doubt, in itself, but necessitating by its complication, training and supervision—has had no other result than to place justice beyond the reach of the mass of the people, to offer a premium to chichanery and official corruption and misconduct, and to make the population look back with regret to the old rough but speedy system of the Tufenkdji Bashi, the Pasha, and his Kehaya, upon all of whom pressure of some kind or another could be brought to bear in cases of injustice.

Under the present vilayet system the Syrian gendarmerie and police is placed, as I have said, under the command of the Alaï Bey, who, like his second, the Bimbashi, is named and appointed by the Minister of Police, and confirmed by Imperial Firman. the Yuzbashy (captain) and two Mulazims (lieutenants) being locally appointed by the Alaï Bey. So much for Damascus.

In the Mutessarifliks of the vilayet are officers with the rank of Bimbashi, also appointed and confirmed by Constantinople, the minor appointments resting with the Alaï Bey. In the various Kaïmakamliks are stationed Onbashis, also appointed by the Alaï Bey.

The numerical force of the Syrian gendarmerie and police is given on p. 17.

The salaries and wages are as follows:—

		Per Month. Frs.
Alaï Bey	..	3,000
Bimbashy	..	1,000
Yuzbashy	..	400
Mulazims	1 ..	300
	2 ..	250
Privates	horse ..	130
	foot ..	80

Clothing and arms are supplied by Government, as well as bread rations (300 dr.) to each, the mounted police receiving also 3 okes of barley and 4 okes of chopped straw, but supplying their own horses.

During the last three years wages, often in arrears, ceased altogether, being paid up to March last in caimé, resulting in the corps having only a nominal existence in point of numbers, especially the mounted force, many of whom joined one day and deserted the next, often selling their arms and ammunition to live, and when on duty eking out their subsistence by petty pillage and by plundering those wayfarers whose rank in the social scale precluded complaint. In Damascus the Chief seldom knew who were his men, so constant were the changes and desertions consequent upon no pay.

During the war the force, being placed under the control of the Minister of War, was locally directed by the Mushir, who also acted as Vali, and who, by his long residence in the country, his knowledge of the people, and his dual powers, was able to keep the peace in Syria, and in Damascus in particular.

With the termination of the war the control of the body reverted to the Minister of Police, and in March last came the abolition of the paper currency and the resumption of pay to the police in metallic—this last, however, often in arrears.

The foot police are exclusively employed in town service; the horse, between Damascus and its rural districts, in matters appertaining to the arrest of criminals, the collection of private debts and public taxes—too often availing themselves of their powers to levy blackmail upon the peasantry, among whom they alone work to the detriment of the Treasury and to the evasion of justice. A few, again, are stationed on the road to Beyrout, and in cases of more serious breaches of the peace in any of the outlying Kaïmakamliks (seven) about Damascus, proceed in force, under the command of the Bimbashi or Yuzbashi. They are armed with the Winchester (17-shot) rifle, and generally appear without uniform.

Besides this force of regular gendarmerie and police, which is stationed almost solely in the cities and towns of the vilayet, are the retainers in the employment of the petty Chieftains along the eastern frontier, to whom are confided the safety of the roads within their particular district, such as the Jebel Druze Hauran and the country between Damascus and Homs to the east. Such Chieftains or Notables each draw pay for about twenty-five horsemen, at 150 piastres per month, and employ as few as they deem consistent with their duties and their pecuniary interests.

The bulk of the regular police and gendarmerie of Damascus, its rural districts, and its seven Kaïmakamliks, are men drawn from the important Kurdish element of the Damascene population—a race which, if locally distinguished for its comparatively turbulent and thievish propensities when compared with the more indigenous and docile Moslem, alone possesses, among a peculiarly effeminate and unwarlike people, the necessary military instincts and liking for such a service. (They are most obnoxious to the Druze and the Bedouin, and few are to be found in the Hauran.)

The second in command of the Syrian police, the Bimbashi, is also a Damascene Kurd. He is, to all practical intents, the head of the police, and by reason of his position and local nationality wields great power. He is clever and shrewd. Complaints of corruption and arbitrary and cruel acts have not been wanting against him in times past, but I find it difficult to give a decided opinion on the last count, such being alleged to have taken place in the outlying districts, where accurate information, even if I were able to visit them, is difficult to obtain without the fullest powers of investigation, in view of the intrigue, prevarication, and misrepresentation in which even the pettiest case is shrouded.

Complaints of arbitrary imprisonment without trial, arising out of police cases, are common enough in Damascus and its districts; but it must be said that if the preservation of the peace were left to the action of the Medjlisses, as by law ordered, and as at present constituted, the corruption and confusion therein prevailing would offer a premium to disorder and breaches of the law. On the other hand, it is unnecessary to point out the manifold opportunities for the abusive exercise of power by the police which the other and only present alternative presents, and which are undoubtedly largely availed of. And to the knowledge of the existence of such abuses by the police is to be ascribed, in my opinion, the present secure state of the settled districts.

The Alaï Bey, or nominal Chief of the police, is always a Turk from Constantinople—often changed, ignorant of the language of the country and of the people, and thus unable to exercise much control over subordinates. He is regarded by the people as a nonentity, and his name, in praise or dispraise, is never heard. The objections made by Midhat Pasha to the employment of an English or other foreign chief of gendarmerie on the score of ignorance of language and customs, would thus apparently seem to apply with equal force to the present system.

The City of Damascus, with a population variously estimated by the authorities as between 180,000 and 200,000, possesses a singular immunity of crime against the person and against property, arising partly from the extreme docility and effeminancy of the people, except when fanatically excited, or purposely aroused by intrigue, and partly from that isolation from the outer world which has always characterized it. And my experience of it, of many scares and panics among the Christians, and of the extreme ease with which any disturbance or popular effervescence can be effectually and speedily quelled and extinguished by the police, when so inclined, teach me that no outbreak or serious breach of the peace can take place in Damascus without the culpable negligence of the authorities.

Around the city of Damascus isolated cases of robbery and plunder of wayfarers are more frequent, owing to the shelter afforded by its vast gardens to the fleers from justice from the city; but taking the extent of population into account they are comparatively rare, and, as is usual in Syria, are confined to the poorest, and consequently less protected in the country.

In the rural districts of Damascus the poverty of the population, the fact that

every inhabitant is known, can be easily traced, and that flight to the Lejah or the Hauran, the only places of refuge, involves conditions of existence to the criminal to which almost any punishment is preferable, makes the professional bandit or robber unknown.

These remarks must not be held to apply to the Hauran and other frontier lands with their scarce population, and liability and danger to Bedouin and Arab incursions, although these have notably decreased of late owing to the measures taken by the civil and military authorities, and the injury thus resulting to these few settlers, who are not able to take care of themselves, has proportionately diminished.

They apply, however, to the majority of the settled districts, although there are those further removed from the seat of Government where serious crime has been rifer, such as the mountainous rural districts of Acre, Sidon, and Tripoli, owing to the total absence of police stations or patrols, and to the supineness of the Chief of the Executive in not following up the commission of crime by the arrest of the offenders by his doubtless small, but, in view of the universal dread entertained by the people of the authorities, sufficiently adequate police force at his command.

Midhat Pasha made some forcible examples soon after his arrival by executing five or six murderers, and which have no doubt had the same salutary effect in their particular districts as they would have had here.

Taking Syria as a whole, with its varied population, people, however, of the same race, characteristics, and language, I would venture to record my conviction that few countries can be more easily governed, so far as police matters are concerned. That all that is necessary is a simple show of energy on the part of the authorities, and that the knowledge once possessed by a people naturally intelligent and shrewd, that arrest and punishment would follow necessarily the commission of crime, would do away at a stroke with the existence of what is called in Europe the criminal classes, but which in Syria, according to my experience, have little existence.

No doubt the inefficient state of the gendarmerie and police, and their petty predatory habits upon the poor and unprotected of the rural districts, which principally suffer, have mainly proceeded from irregularly paid wages, as well as from the absence of any genuine control or organization; but in fairness to the body must be cited again the difficulties to the efficient execution of their duties produced by the corrupt practices of Medjlisses throughout the country, and the facilities thereby available to criminals for escaping justice by making interest with some person of influence, or by giving bribes. That the twofold facilities of corrupt police and corrupt Courts have not sensibly increased crime throughout the country must be explained by the pecuniary fines paid as bribes to officials to influence justice or to screen offenders, and which are generally sufficiently onerous to constitute, if not an adequate punishment for the crime, at least a strong moral deterrent to again falling within the clutches of the police and Medjlisses.

In Damascus, for instance, the police often complain that as soon as they catch a criminal the Medjliss let him go; and in Jerusalem last year the Pasha made the same complaint to me.

My own experiences of the difficulties in combatting the occult influences systematically and almost invariably used in the Damascus and neighbouring Medjlisses, in respect to sundry police cases where British subjects were recently plaintiffs, fully bear out the justice of such complaints.

In April last Midhat Pasha, having received permission from the Central Government to form the nucleus of a reformed body of police and gendarmerie with the view to possible future development, enrolled for service in Damascus a company of 80 men, of whom 15 are Christians, as a kind of private police; 55 of these are now stationed in Damascus, the rest have been sent to other towns in the vilayet, to form the nucleus of similar corps lately formed there. Their pay is 400 piastres a-month, with two suits of clothes a-year, a revolver, whistle, &c. These 55 men are stationed wholly in Damascus, and are employed as a kind of private police for inquiry, investigation, reporting what passes, and in amicably repressing, if possible, petty disputes and quarrels in the streets. They are regarded by the Moslems, and people generally, as spies in the service of the Governor-General, and although time and supervision are necessary to render them thoroughly independent of local influences and prejudices, the effect produced by them on the public peace is a salutary one. Unfortunately, however, the impecuniosity of the local Treasury has resulted in their pay being already two months in arrears, and in their outfit being so far restricted to a suit of white summer clothing.

The present position of the body is causing some discontent, owing to arrears of

pay, debts consequently incurred, and the vague prospect of winter clothing being forthcoming.

Another company of 80 is being enrolled, of which 15, including a Jew, are already inscribed.

So far as regards the new private police. As regards the gendarmerie, two companies, one of foot, stationed at Damascus, for service in the city as zaptiehs, and one of horse, employed in missions between the city and its rural districts, have been formed. So far none of these new corps are stationed out of Damascus, with the exception of a handful on the Beyrout road for patrol duty.

Both the new police and the gendarmerie are enrolled for four years. The pay of the latter is 100 piastres per month for the foot, and 200 piastres for the horse; rations as usual. Clothing and arms as usual. The pay of the latter is also in arrears; and, as the majority have been drawn from a superior class of the population, discontent is rifer among them than under the old system.

Both corps have been organized, and details of Regulations have been drawn up by one Murad Bey, in the service of the Lebanon Government. So far the conduct of the men is exemplary, and affords a marked contrast for the better with that which generally distinguishes the Syrian police.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Damascus, October 8, 1879.

Official Return of the Gendarmerie and Police of the Vilayet of Syria:—

New gendarmes	horse	.. ..	475
	foot	.. ..	700
New police (foot)		.. ..	168
Old zaptiehs	horse	.. ..	708
	foot	.. ..	396
			2,447

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 711.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 26, 1879.

SULTAN invited me to dinner yesterday to meet Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who called upon me this morning. I had a conversation of nearly four hours with him, during which I sought to impress upon him the extreme danger in which the Throne of the Sultan, and his Empire, were placed by the obstinate persistence of the Porte in not putting the promised reforms into loyal execution and affording proper protection to the Christians. I told him his presence in the Ministry rendered the danger still more grave; and I informed him that as, in consequence of promises made to me by the Sultan to put those reforms into execution at once, and to appoint Baker Pasha to high command in Armenia, the fleet had not gone to Besika Bay in the spring; now that those promises had not been fulfilled, it would shortly appear there. He entreated me to prevent this, as it was impossible to say what would be the effect upon the Porte. He gave me the most solemn assurances that he would use all the influence he possesses over the Sultan, and in Council, to carry out the measures that I require. He requested me to prepare a list of those which I think most urgent, and I see him again on Wednesday, when he is to tell me which, in his opinion, are practicable, and which are not. He gave me the impression of being sincere, and of really feeling the critical position in which the Empire is placed, and think, by working on his fears and his patriotism, I may obtain something which may satisfy Her Majesty's Government.

Admiral Hornby has informed me that he has received orders to go to Vourla or Besika, and that he will be ready to leave Malta on the 5th November. I would suggest that he should go first to Vourla, and communicate with me before coming to Besika.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 881.)

Therapia, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Sultan, when I saw him to-day, requested me to give him a memorandum in writing of the objections to the new Regulations for the reform of the Judicial Tribunals, which I had informed him had given rise to so much dissatisfaction in the provinces.

I have the honour to inclose copy of the observations on this subject which I have submitted to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Memorandum.

I RECEIVED during my recent journey the gravest complaints against the new Law or Regulation for the reform of the Judicial Tribunals. These complaints, which come from the Turkish authorities and others whom I saw, were fully borne out by the information that I received from the Consular Agents of England and other countries.

It is stated that in order to find the means of paying a large number of Judicial Inspectors and Procureurs-Généraux, who have been appointed by the Minister of Justice, the salaries of the Judges have either been reduced or abolished altogether. This has led to the resignation of many of them, and can only encourage corruption and the maladministration of justice on the part of those who remain and are unpaid. The choice of the Inspectors is declared to be a very unfortunate one. Men of known incompetency and of bad reputation have been appointed through influence and favour. Already one Procureur-Général, the one sent to Diarbekir, has been found guilty of taking bribes. The class of men sent has, instead of inspiring confidence, led to the conviction that it will be more difficult than ever to obtain justice, and to make any real reform in the Tribunals.

The scale of fees is stated to be so high as to prevent those who are not really wealthy from appealing to the Tribunals.

The removal of the Tribunals from all control on the part of the Valis, their so-called independence, though good in principle, has been decided upon too soon. When a class of learned, intelligent, and honest Judges has been formed, it will be quite right to make the Tribunals independent; such a class does not, unfortunately, at present exist. The present Judges are for the most part notoriously ignorant and corrupt. To place them beyond the control of the Valis, especially considering the character of the men who have been sent as Inspectors and Procureurs-Généraux, is to give full play to corruption and injustice. The Valis, when appealed to for redress, reply that they are forbidden to interfere with the Tribunals, and neither redress nor justice is to be obtained.

These are the principal complaints which are brought to my notice, and which have caused general dissatisfaction and confusion, and, I grieve to say, disaffection. They form the subject of many reports addressed to this Embassy and other foreign Missions. A great many other objections to the new Regulations were made to me, and I found that they were generally condemned as hastily drawn up without sufficient knowledge of the subject to be dealt with.

A few honest and competent Inspectors, including some Europeans, as recommended by Her Majesty's Government, would have brought about a real reform of the Tribunals, and would have inspired confidence in the populations. The cost of their employment would have been much less than that incurred by the number of officials who have been appointed for the purpose to the provinces. The experiment now made appears, by the accounts that have reached me from all parts of the Empire, to have signally failed.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 882. Secret.)

Therapia, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of being received this afternoon by the Sultan. His Majesty was anxious to learn the impression that my visit to Syria and the Archipelago had made upon me with respect to the condition of their populations and of the country. I told His Majesty that as I had always spoken the truth to him I should do so unreservedly on the present occasion. I then described to him the state of Syria and the general discontent that I had found there in consequence of the interference from Constantinople in the administration, the character of the functionaries, such as Kaïmakams and Mudirs, who were sent there by the Porte, and the general miscarriage of justice. I told His Majesty that the recent regulations for the so-called reform of the Tribunals issued by Saïd Pasha had produced the most complete confusion, and that there was an universal complaint on the part of the authorities and the people that, bad as the administration of justice was before, it had become worse since the new law had been put into force.

His Majesty expressed much surprise at what I had told him, and begged me to explain why the new regulations had so completely failed to carry out their object, which was the thorough reform of the judicial system and the better administration of justice. Did I object to the principle upon which they had been framed, or was their execution confided to incompetent and untrustworthy hands?

I replied that, in principle, many of the new regulations were good, but that the time had not yet come for their application.

I described to His Majesty very fully the complaints that had reached me on the subject, and I particularly dwelt upon the fact that no honest and independent Inspectors of the Tribunals, with Europeans amongst them, such as Her Majesty's Government had suggested, had been appointed. A large number of Inspectors and Procureurs-Généraux had been, it was true, named, with comparatively large salaries, amongst whom were men of known bad antecedents, whereas four or five really good men would have been sufficient.

To meet the expense the salaries of the Judges had been reduced, and had even been taken away altogether. When upright and competent Judges could be found it would be time to make the Tribunals entirely independent; but whilst the Judges were notoriously ignorant and corrupt, to remove them altogether from the control of the Valis was to do away with all hope of redress in case of iniquitous decisions and the denial of justice.

His Majesty said that he greatly regretted to hear what I had told him; that the proper administration of justice should be the first care of a Sovereign; and that he should institute an inquiry as to the facts which I had brought to his notice.

I then observed to His Majesty that I was bound to state that I had formed a good opinion of the Governors whom I had seen during my journey. They were capable and honest men, anxious for the improvement of the provinces in their charge, and for the welfare of their inhabitants, and enjoyed the confidence of the populations, Christian as well as Mussulman. I mentioned the Valis of Syria, Palestine, Scio, and Smyrna (Midhat, Réouf, Sadyk, and Hamdi Pashas), and the Governors of Rhodes, Beyrout, Damascus, and Adalia. But they were so fettered and interfered with from Constantinople, that all their attempts to improve the administration, and to govern vigorously, justly, and impartially, were vain. Unless, I said, His Majesty was prepared to give them fuller powers, to place more confidence in them, and not to allow them to be sacrificed to the intrigues and corrupt influences at the capital, they could not discharge their duty to him and to his people loyally and satisfactorily, and the discontent which already largely prevailed in Syria and elsewhere would increase and assume very formidable proportions.

I then described to His Majesty the state of public feeling in Syria, and I warned him solemnly that unless something were done, and that speedily, to satisfy the legitimate demands of the populations, and to thoroughly reform the administration, a movement in favour of autonomy, or even independence, might soon commence which might end in the further dismemberment of his Empire. I told him that I had had opportunities of conversing with persons of all creeds and classes, including Cadis and Muftis, and that I had found that the same discontent and dissatisfaction at the way in which the country was now governed prevailed on every side. His Syrian subjects, I warned him, would not much longer submit to be sacrificed to a small clique at Constantinople, and to see the

whole of the administration confided to men sent from the capital, who were ignorant of their language, their habits, and their wants, and who, for the most part, were corrupt and unscrupulous, and only thought of enriching themselves at the expense of those whom they were sent to govern.

The Syrians, I added, were not dissatisfied with their present Governors, but if Midhat Pasha, and others whom I had mentioned, were removed, or if their attempts to improve the condition of the people were still impeded by interference from the capital, His Majesty might be assured that before long grave consequences would ensue. At the same time, I had every reason to believe that the population still entertained a feeling of sincere loyalty to His Majesty, and it was of the utmost importance that His Majesty should take advantage of that feeling before it was too late.

I then informed His Majesty of the report that had been sent to Her Majesty's Government by Consul Zohrab of the existence of a Mussulman movement or conspiracy, the centre of which was at Medina, and which had for one of its objects the overthrow of His Majesty's Throne. This report, I said, had been confirmed by information given to me by Midhat Pasha. There was reason to believe that secret committees connected with this conspiracy had already been formed in some of the principal cities of Syria, and this added greatly to the danger arising from the disaffection which I had described.

I earnestly begged His Majesty to take what I had told him into his most serious consideration.

His Majesty, who listened very attentively and gravely to what I had said, replied that he had not received any information as to the conspiracy to which I had referred, but that as he was in the habit of reading the Arab newspapers, he had inferred from the language of some of them that a movement, such as I had described, was taking place amongst the Arabs. It was a matter which required the urgent attention of his Ministers. As regards the complaints of his Syrian subjects that they had no share in the government and administration of their own affairs, and were sacrificed to the official class at Constantinople, he must admit that they were just and well founded. I knew his views and intentions, his earnest desire to introduce reforms which would satisfy all his subjects without distinction of race or creed. He had thought of nothing else for months, by day and by night, until his health had completely broken down. He grieved to hear that after all he had suffered so little had been done to improve the condition of his people, and to content them. He thanked me for having told him the truth about Syria, and for the warning I had given him, which furnished an additional proof of the true friendship that he was convinced I felt for him.

I observed that I had never doubted his good intentions and his desire to improve the condition of his people, but, unfortunately, those intentions were not carried out as they should be. The reforms in the administration, which had hitherto been proposed, were entirely inadequate to the object which they professed to have in view, or; if adequate, were not honestly and vigorously put into execution. I cited the instance of Armenia. I had warned his Ministers, I said, as soon as the war was over, that unless immediate and effective measures were taken to insure justice and equal treatment to the Christian populations of Eastern Asia Minor, and to protect them from the depredations and oppression of the Kurds, and from unjust treatment by the local authorities, an Armenian question would soon arise, and the Armenians, supported by public opinion in Europe, and especially in England, would demand, like the Bulgarians, autonomy and self-government.

I had, therefore, earnestly advised His Majesty to name Baker Pasha to the chief command in Kurdistan. His Majesty had promised to do so, but that promise had not as yet been fulfilled. What I had predicted had come to pass. A movement was now going on amongst the Armenians for autonomy, in which they had the sympathy of a powerful section of public opinion in England, and which might lead to an agitation in their favour as in the case of Bulgaria. His Majesty might judge of the result to his Empire if Armenia and Syria became autonomous provinces.

His Majesty observed that when a country was in the critical state in which the Empire now found itself in consequence of the results of the war, the most radical and vigorous measures could alone save it from ruin. He was prepared to take such measures, but unfortunately he could not find the men who were equal to carrying them out. The great want of Turkey was that of statesmen and of really capable administrators. He had none amongst his Ministers. He was not opposed to the employment of Europeans in high and responsible positions. On the contrary, he was in favour of it. He knew that Peter the Great had made Russia what she now is by availing himself of the services of foreigners, who had introduced those reforms and institutions which were the foundation of the greatness of his Empire.

His Majesty then spoke about the state of the finances, which, he said, was becoming daily more alarming. He was utterly at a loss to know what to do. Two plans were now before him, neither of which could he accept. He considered the proposal advocated by some of his Ministers for farming the customs to a financial association, composed of native bankers and others, as detrimental to the interests of his Empire. He believed that it and the other project which had been submitted to him would end in the appointment of the International Financial Commission contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, which he was most desirous to avoid, as it could only lead to serious difficulties and complications.

It was urgent, His Majesty said, that he should be able to obtain a loan of about 1,500,000*l.* to meet the most pressing demands upon the Treasury. If he could get this sum he would be able to tide over present difficulties, and he was convinced that the finances of the Empire could be so adjusted that the revenues would be increased, and be rendered equal to the expenditure, and then there would no longer be any necessity for a large loan such as had hitherto been contemplated. Would Her Majesty's Government assist him in raising some money upon the Cyprus revenue?

I replied that what I had learnt during my recent journey had tended to confirm my conviction that, unless the Porte could in some way find money, the most disastrous consequences might ensue. The provinces are drained. The demand upon the Governors from Constantinople could no longer be satisfied. The army, the police, and the public functionaries were unpaid. This state of things added to the general discontent, and there was a very serious danger of the troops deserting and taking to pillage.

As regards the International Financial Commission, its appointment depended upon whether the foreign creditors could be satisfied or not.

If the Porte could not come to an agreement with them, and endeavoured to force upon them unjust or unfair terms, they would have a right to fall back upon the Treaty of Berlin, and to insist upon the appointment of the International Commission. I therefore urged His Majesty to come to an understanding with them before adopting any plan for the payment of the interest on the foreign debt.

If His Majesty had determined not to accept the proposal for farming the customs and other revenues which had been made to the Porte—and I fully appreciated the serious objections to it—and if His Majesty were not disposed to accept the nomination by England and France of Commissioners for the control and administration of the Customs, on the ground that it would lead to the nomination of an International Commission, I could only repeat the advice that I had given him and his Ministers for many months past, which was to take the reform of the Customs into their own hands. In order to do this effectively, and to obtain the confidence of the bondholders, it would be absolutely necessary for him to have recourse to Europeans. Let him find a thoroughly competent man, give him full powers, and make him independent of control.

I described to His Majesty what Mr. Hart had done in China, when intrusted by the Imperial Government with the administration of the Customs, and I referred him to a memorandum which had been drawn up by that gentleman containing an account of what he had effected, and how he had effected it, a translation of which I had given to the Porte many months ago.

His Majesty said that he had never seen this memorandum, and begged me to let him have a copy of it, which I promised to do. He added that he entirely agreed in my views; that he was prepared to follow my advice, and would be glad if I could recommend him some one who could do for Turkey what Mr. Hart had done for China.

After some further conversation upon financial and other subjects, and when I was taking leave of His Majesty, I begged him to tell me distinctly whether or not he was prepared to give Baker Pasha a command in Armenia, and whether, if a person could be found who was competent to undertake the reform and administration of the Turkish Customs and other branches of the revenue, His Majesty was prepared to intrust him with the independent powers that I had suggested. His Majesty gave me no answer to the first question; to the second he replied that allowance must be made for national prejudices and the objections that were naturally entertained by many to placing such extensive powers in the hands of foreigners.

He would prefer to commence by naming two Englishmen, as he had already stated to me, Mushteshars (Under-Secretaries) in the Ministry of Finance and Department of the Customs. This would be the first step. If the persons thus employed showed themselves capable and trustworthy, he would promote them to higher and more independent posts.

I pointed out to His Majesty that if he intended to introduce real reforms into the administration by the employment of Europeans, it was useless to place them in subordinate positions in which they would be under the supervision and control of those who had brought about the present unfortunate condition of affairs. Unless men so employed had independent powers they could not render the services which His Majesty had a right to expect of them, and could not discharge their duties loyally and to their own satisfaction.

I cited the instance of Mr. Calvert, who, on my recommendation, had been named one of the First Class Inspectors of Finance, and had very properly resigned because he found himself placed, contrary to the understanding come to with me, under a superior officer, thus being deprived of all independent action. I again earnestly begged His Majesty to consider the position in which his Empire was placed, and the absolute necessity of employing Europeans in positions in which they could carry out the reforms which were so greatly and urgently needed.

His Majesty replied that he would take all that I had said into his most earnest and serious consideration; that the matter was too grave a one to permit him to give me an immediate answer, but he would be glad if Sir A. Sandison would come to him on the following Saturday, when he would be prepared to speak to him on the subject. He hoped, His Majesty added, to see me again next week.

The impression made upon me by my conversation with the Sultan to-day is that the influence of those who have been endeavouring to act upon his fears to prevent him entering upon really liberal and radical reforms, and employing Europeans with that object, is again in the ascendant. When I left Constantinople some weeks ago I had reason to believe that it was on the decline, and that Osman and Said Pashas and others had lost His Majesty's favour, and were about to be removed from the Ministry. The unfortunate attempt of Karyanopolo, of which His Majesty gave me a minute, but apparently inaccurate, account, attributing it, without, I am assured, the slightest foundation, to a Muradist conspiracy, appears to have renewed the alarms of His Majesty, and to have again excited those nervous suspicions which, there was reason to hope, were gradually subsiding.

Some persons go so far as to say that the whole affair was got up by Osman Pasha and others at the Palace, in order to recover their influence over His Majesty by leading him to believe that he is dependent upon them alone for his personal safety, and that Karyanopolo was deliberately bayoneted to death one or two days after his arrest in order to get him out of the way.

This is probably an exaggerated view, but there is no doubt that they have profited by this unhappy incident, and that His Majesty again listens to counsels which threaten to prove so fatal to his own interests and welfare, and to those of his Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 887.)
Therapia, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Major Trotter's despatch to your Lordship No. 40 of the 13th September last relative to the state of the district of Geghi, I have the honour to state that the Protestant Vakil informs me that he has received reports from Geghi which give a more satisfactory account of the state of things there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October 28.*)

(No. 889. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, October 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three private letters addressed to me which your Lordship will, I believe, read with interest. One is from Said Pasha, and will, I think, confirm the good opinion that I have expressed to your Lordship of his character.

Another from Consul Henderson, whose account of the disaffection to the Sultan and his Government, which is extending amongst the Arabs, and threatens ere long to break out in open revolt, corresponds with what I heard in Syria, and am reporting to your Lordship.

The third letter is from Lieutenant Chermside, who gives a deplorable account of the country he has been lately visiting, and of the sufferings of the unfortunate refugees from Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. I have authorized him to draw upon me for 300*l.* out of the balance of the "Compassionate Fund" still in my hands towards their relief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Said Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, October 1, 1879.

My dear Sir Henry,

JUST before my march into Zeitoun, I write this short letter to tell you that, up to the present time, I have been occupied in collecting and sifting the evidence which I have been able to obtain at Aleppo, Aintab, and this place. From what I have already gathered, notwithstanding the misdeeds of a portion of the Zeitoun people, I hope to bring the affair to a satisfactory conclusion; and in my next letter trust I shall be able to inform you that I have succeeded in satisfying most of the claims of those people whose houses have been robbed, and cattle carried off by the Zeitounli, and, what is more important still, laid the basis of permanent tranquillity in the country.

On Monday last I received the notification of my appointment as Vali of this province. I have accepted it for the present, as I think it advantageous to do so while I remain in the country on this mission. After that is finished I mean to send in my resignation. I don't object to the vilayet, but it would be quite impossible for me to live at Aleppo.

If my resignation is not accepted, I have made up my mind to retire from the public service altogether, simply because, if the character of a public servant is such that he cannot be tolerated in the capital of his country, he certainly ought not to be placed in the responsible position of Governor of a province, where both integrity and ability are required, even more than in the capital.

I trust both Lady Layard and your Excellency have enjoyed your visit to Jerusalem, and hope that this letter will find you both in good health.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) SAÏD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)

Dear Sir Henry Layard,

Aleppo, October 3, 1879.

I REGRET exceedingly that I was unable to have a much-desired interview with your Excellency during your visit to Syria. There were two questions on which I was very anxious to have your Excellency's advice and counsel (the Armenian question and the Arab question).

The former question, as my French colleague is entirely under the influence of the Jesuits, and is strongly supporting the Jesuit propaganda, much to the annoyance of the Orthodox Armenians. The Arab question is, I fear, one which may yet give the Porte great trouble, as the idea of creating an independent Arab State is much talked about.

Galib Pasha will wait on your Excellency on his arrival at the capital, and he will give your Excellency much information about Aleppo. Before his departure he asked me to make a journey in the desert to discover what disaffection there might be amongst the tribes. He thought the Arabs would be much more likely to confide in me than in a Turkish officer. Should your Excellency, after seeing Galib Pasha, think the matter of sufficient importance, I shall be glad to undertake the journey.

Said Pasha has informed me that he does not intend to remain long here, and, should he resign, it is essential that we should get a good Vali—an honest one if possible. Mr. Chermside's private letter will give your Excellency some idea of the dreadful state of the mountainous districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—I inclose a private letter to you from Said Pasha.

P. H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)

Dear Sir Henry Layard,

Marash, October 1, 1879.

I HOPE you had a pleasant trip in Syria. Saïd Pasha has been named Vali of Aleppo; he requests me to write to you privately, and say, in accepting the Governorship, he wishes you to understand that he does so temporarily, and for the duration of his present mission, on the completion of which, if his intentions remain as at present, he intends to resign, and he thinks it right to tell you of this at once.

The day before he left Aleppo the French Consul presented a request, received by telegraph from the French Ambassador, asking for the pardon of Babbek, and three others, Tando Orazuch Katzoff, Daloustayan Kalustian, Nazaret Hadji Tegluan. These three men are, I believe, all Catholics. Three of Babbek's men have gone to Constantinople. I have the names of two, which are the same as those above; the third is, therefore, probably the same. It seems a pity that such a course should have been taken, and such distinctions made.

I must tell you that the Catholics, much concerned in the fomentation of the original disturbances, finding which way matters are likely to turn, are engaged in trying to discredit in every way the English influence, doubtless intending to credit the French with having obtained a solution after the English had failed, and to hold out the bait of French protection as the only efficient protection as a means of furthering their propaganda. Not that the Orthodox Armenians are acting uprightly, far from it; their intrigues, the intrigues that seem as natural and necessary to them as the air they breathe, are incessant; they are perpetually trying to hoodwink or overreach me; and this, when it is my duty to really assist them, is disgusting, besides rendering one's position almost impossible as regards utility. It is terrible when one can trust no one.

I have just been exploring the Giaour-Dagh; the condition of the refugees there is terrible. At Bagtche, a Caza of the Adana Vilayet, where there were thousands, none remain but the dead. I cannot make out where the others have gone. The Government, whatever it may do theoretically, practically gives no assistance in settling, only a dole of rations; that is intermittent, and in many cases discontinued; nothing in the way of implements, oxen, seed, corn, help with dwelling, &c. I take an example: last week I found 25 families, some 100 persons—they are the living remnant of nearly 2,000 people. In all nearly 2,000 families came to this Caza (Islahia), but of these many have gone elsewhere; of the 2,000 people that remained over 1,800 have died (so they say), and the number of fresh graves was enormous; some they tell me lay about unburied and were actually eaten by dogs (in one case, if I did not misunderstand, before death).

The sallow, half-starved, fever-stricken little remnant are apathetic and hopeless; the dole of a ration, worth 20 paras per head per diem, with half and quarter rations for non-adults, ceased months ago (I think they said five); for Bairam they received 1 grad (3 okes) per head (adults), or a nine days' dole. I bought them rations for some ten days, and brought some of them to Saïd Pasha (they chanced to be old friends, some of 500 whom I had supported for a few weeks in Bulgaria myself till I got assistance from a committee), and their delight at seeing me was intense, though even the men could hardly speak coherently for their tears, and we got up a subscription for oxen, tools, &c., of 8,000 piastres.

This is only one case, but I know many others. I have spent personally about 50*l.*, and I am glad to give it, but I cannot at present give much more. If one could only get 500*l.* or 600*l.* from some society, not to be spent in rations, which the Government must give in grain, but solely in settling the people, giving picks, shovels,

ploughs, &c., helping them to make dwellings. It is really terrible to see these half-starved, fever-stricken wretches and the little skeleton babes tugging at the empty breast.

I have seen shocking things in Turkey, but this lingering destruction by a slow death is the most awful thing I know. In most of the districts I know the decrease of numbers imported, principally ascribed to mortality, is about 75 per cent. I cannot believe this; they must have gone somewhere, one hopes.

The population of the Giaour-Dagh has taken advantage of the anarchy produced by the war to resume its nomad habits; the villages, and even the four small towns, are in ruins, and almost absolutely deserted. The nomads go north to near Sivas, and this year want of grass has brought in the Arabs to supply their places; the small remaining resident population, who still pursue agriculture, which those who have resumed nomadic habits have abandoned, have had much of their crops eaten by the Arab herds; the state of the country is really deplorable. I have no time this post to forward a Report on this, but purpose doing so shortly.

Said is driving the Arabs out of the plain, I am glad to say. Kaïmakams, Mudirs, zaptiehs, &c., when speaking to me personally, abuse the Sultan, about whom endless stories are rife. They are disgusted with the whole system of Government, Pashas, &c., and do not scruple to tell me so. My opinion of the Armenians is lower than ever; they do not seem to possess one magnanimous quality. Their petty jealousy of individuals, their deceit and intrigue, seem a hopeless impediment to the concession to them of that share of government, &c., that their industry and intelligence merit, except by very gradual degrees. The Catholicos of Sis is a disgrace to his Church.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 890.)
Therapia, October 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter I have received from the Rev. H. Barnum, an American missionary residing at Kharpoot, giving an account of the state of affairs in that part of the country, which I do not doubt your Lordship will read with interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 27.

The Rev. H. Barnum to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kharpoot, September 26, 1879.

Excellency,

IN my last letter I mentioned the arrival of the Chief Commissioner, Abeddin Pasha.

It was his intention to remain here a couple of months, but he is instructed to proceed to Sivas at once, having been here only three weeks. I think that I never saw in any country an example of greater industry and executive ability. He is calm and self-possessed; his decisions are prompt, and are at once put into execution, and he is at work night and day. I doubt whether it is in human nature to sustain such a pressure for any great length of time. He also appears to be thoroughly honest, but he has had as his counsellors the clique which has controlled the Local Government for the last few years, and which is thoroughly corrupt. Perhaps he could not have done better.

These men, however, greatly fear him, and I have heard of a good many of them returning the bribes which they had received when threatened with exposure by the Pasha.

Perhaps your Excellency would inquire what is the line of policy which he has pursued; what has he attempted? I will endeavour to answer this question as briefly as possible.

1. The redress of private grievances. It was to be expected that a great many chronic cases would be presented, and so it has been. Hundreds upon hundreds of petitions have poured in upon him. He attempted the examination of them himself, but that became impossible, so he passed them over to his Chief Secretary. This gentleman, however, is able to do little more than to refer them back to the proper Courts for re-examination. He told me yesterday that he read and referred the day before over 120 petitions. A special Court (temporary) has been constituted for the examination of particular cases. The President of this Court, a man who has been Kaïmakam in this part of the country for a good many years, told me yesterday that everything was corrupt here; that almost every decision of the Government was wrong, and that in the cases referred to them it was almost safe to take an official decree as *primâ facie* evidence that the other party was in the right. This, of course, was an "Oriental idiom," but it illustrates what I have so often stated in this correspondence of official corruption here. A few wrongs will be righted in this new process, but probably the aggregate of trouble, time, and expense will considerably overbalance the aggregate gain.

2. The punishment of old offenders. When Abeddin Pasha came here it was evidently his intention to lop off and send to Albania some of the worst parasites here, as he had done in Diarbekir. M. Boyajian wrote to me that he had assured him that he should do this, and the Chief Secretary also told me that this would be done. It was soon apparent that there was a change of policy. The pressure upon his time has been so great that I have not sought for private interviews. In a few minutes' conversation the other day he himself introduced the subject, and said to me that there were various "difficulties" in the way of banishing men, and among them he mentioned various complaints to Constantinople that he was very severe, &c. From the tone of his remarks it was apparent that banishment had been forbidden from Constantinople. I myself think that he overdid the business in sending more than 100 men with their families from Diarbekir. All the bad characters cannot be transported without greatly reducing the population, but the banishment of a few of the worst men in each district would produce a very salutary impression. Complaints have been entered against a good many such characters by the poor oppressed people, under the impression that they would be treated after the Diarbekir fashion; but these complainants are now, many of them, in great terror, finding that the Pasha is going, and that their oppressors are left at home, feeling sure that vengeance will overtake them for their temerity. In the midst of our conversation I mentioned Isak Bey, of Char-Soujak, as perhaps the greatest oppressor of the people to be found in the district, but he replied that General Dervish Pasha thought it very desirable to protect Isak Bey for various reasons. The real reason is very likely the fact that Dervish Pasha, on his recent visit to this part of the country, is credibly reported to have received from Isak Bey a gift of eight fine mules.

Abeddin Pasha, in speaking of the "difficulties" in the way of banishing men, as he had done in Diarbekir, said that his present plan was to get as many complaints as possible presented against the most noted characters, and so be able to keep them in prison for several years.

3. The introduction of "Reforms." A new "police" of twenty-eight members has been organized, and the gendarmerie is undergoing inspection. A Reform Commission of about sixty members, including the principal men in the community, chiefly Turks, with representatives from the different Kaïmakamliks, was constituted, and held six sessions of about four hours each. I was present at every session except the first. It was decided that the tithes should be sold as formerly, that the regular taxes should be gathered quarterly, that measures should be taken to preserve forests, to improve roads, to establish a cotton factory, to introduce agricultural implements, &c. It was also recommended to build a few barracks in different places as a protection against the Kurds, and to construct a road viâ Sivas to Samsoon. The correction of judicial and administrative abuses was not touched upon, except, as the Pasha himself said in the meeting yesterday, that he had submitted a plan to the Porte for the more efficient punishment of bribery. The nearest approach to a discussion of fundamental principles was in considering the question of education, which I introduced. The Pasha himself presided, and with great fairness.

The Christian communities here, Armenian, Protestant, and Catholic, have for a good while had this whole subject of reform under consideration, as a memorandum was prepared and signed by all the Christian members of the Reform Commission, and presented to the Chief Commissioner, Abeddin Pasha, himself. A copy is to be sent to the Armenian Patriarch, and I have requested that a copy be furnished to your

Excellency by the Patriarchate. If this memorandum shall receive your Excellency's attention you will understand why the writers of the document did not think it proper to present it to an Assembly composed chiefly of Turks, men who would regard themselves as attacked. The document is a calm statement of the condition of the district, not at all exaggerated, with some suggestions as to the remedy. The Pasha, however, I am sorry to say, regarded it as a criticism on himself, and, after reading it, declined to receive it. There was, however, not the slightest intention to criticize.

Abeddin Pasha would like to secure your Excellency's influence at the Porte in favour of the road to be constructed to Samsoon. Such a road is greatly needed in order to develop the resources of the country. One great obstacle to the establishment of a cotton factory here is the impossibility of transporting the requisite machinery, and this is only one item in the general estimate of the value of such a road.

Another matter in which your Excellency's intervention is needed is the allowing the Commission freedom of action in the summary punishment of the gravest offenders.

I sent letters to Hogop Effendi last week received from Geghi, which report new outrages there, and the perpetrators of them still go unwhipped of justice.

Major-General Fazli Pasha, who went to Dersim before Dervish Pasha, and who has been and still is the practical Governor of these mountains since May, is now here. I called to see him this morning, but he was ill. I had an interview, however, with his scribe. He reports the Kurds as now pretty well in hand. The present plan is to make the Dersim region a Mutessariflik, with an army officer as Governor. This is important, and especially should it be disconnected from Erzingan and Erzeroum. Fazli Pasha is highly spoken of, and I hear that he is gaining the confidence of the Kurds. I think that he would make an excellent Governor.

I have also mentioned the name of Brigadier-General Hakki Pasha as a very enlightened man, and as thoroughly well acquainted with the Kurds, and urging a humane and enlightened policy in their treatment. The latter expects to start in ten or fifteen days for Constantinople. Should your Excellency desire an interview he would be able to impart much information respecting the Kurds, not only in this region but of those in the extreme eastern parts of the Empire, and also respecting the treatment which they have experienced at the hand of Turkish officials. If Dersim is made a Mutessariflik I would suggest Giorgos Effendi as Lieutenant-Governor if he will accept the office. He is well-known by the Kurds, and shares their confidence more than any Turk. Dervish Pasha, I believe, does not favour the plan of separating Dersim from Erzingan, but I am so uncharitable as to suppose that the chief reason is that his home is Erzingan, and Erzingan derives a good deal of support from Kurdish bribes.

I forgot to mention in its proper place the plan which Abeddin Pasha has presented to the Porte in regard to bribery. The present law punishes not only the receiver of bribes, but the giver as well, and I believe the witnesses also. The Pasha proposes that only the receiver shall be subject to penalty, so that the giver may be free to make complaint. This would seem to be the reasonable way, but proof would be difficult to find, for such transactions would be conducted in private.

I have written thus at length, as there is no Consul here. In fact, I should not have given these matters any notice if there had been anyone else to report them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. BARNUM.

P.S.—I have spoken to the Pasha in regard to the memorial of the Christians which he returned. He says that it was not given to him until after the Commission was dissolved, and that he could not thus receive it as coming officially from the members of the Commission, for there were no members at that time. He says this is the reason why he returned it.

H. A. B.

No. 28.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 892.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh, reporting a visit he has made lately to the northern part of the Sis Mutessariflik, in the Adana Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Kaisarieh, September 29, 1879.*

I RECENTLY visited the northern part of the Sis Mutessariflik in the Adana Vilayet.

Leaving Kaisarieh on the 18th instant, and travelling by Evero and the Kozan-Dagh, I arrived at Hadjin on the 20th, staying there a couple of days. I returned by Shaber (marked on maps Ruins of Comana) and Tomarge, reaching Kaisarieh on the evening of the 25th.

At Hadjin the Armenian community presented an address, a précis of which is inclosed.

At Shahr, a village peopled by Armenians from Hadjin, who settled fourteen years ago among the fine ruins of the old Roman and Greek town, there was some distress owing to the inhabitants having been deprived of part of their lands.

When Kozan-Oglou was at Hadjin last year, the Arschairs round Shahr claimed and seized the fields which had been cultivated by the Armenians. The latter, on the restoration of Turkish authority, made complaint to Hadjin, and the Medjliss decided that as the Arschairs had sown they should have half of this year's crop, the other half going to the inhabitants of Shahr, to whom, as owners, the fields were to be restored after the harvest.

Neither corn nor fields have yet been given up by the Arschairs, and as this is the sowing season, the continued deprivation of their fields will tell severely on the people of Shahr.

I believe a paper, stating the facts of the above case, has been given to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia, but as the matter appeared urgent, I wrote to the Kaimakam of Hadjin expressing a hope that the orders of the Medjliss would be speedily executed.

At Tomarge, the Vakeel of the Armenian Monastery complained that the Arajve, Mudir of Azizieh, will not grant the "kotchan" necessary to complete the transfer of a field which the monastery had lately bought on the left bank of the Samantra Sui.

The same monastery is prevented from occupying land purchased last year by an Arschair, Serleke Hassan, of Suar, a village two hours from Tomarge on the Samantra Sui.

The insecurity of life and property referred to by the inhabitants of Hadjin in their petition is by no means confined to that place. Throughout the districts visited the complaints were the same; and I have already brought to your Excellency's notice the great increase of highway robbery in the Sandjak of Kaisarieh. (Despatch No. 2 of the 13th September, 1879.)

The inefficiency of the zaptiehs and the apathy of the authorities are powerfully aided by the diverse Governments into which the country south of Kaisarieh is divided.

The Valis of Sivas, Angora, and Adana claim and exercise jurisdiction in the mountains of Anti-Taurus, and the delay caused by reference from one to another gives facility to the escape of robbers.

An instance of the impunity with which small bands harry the country lately occurred in Tomarge. Four smugglers of tobacco entered the konak and insulted the Mudir, who had rendered himself unpopular to them. The Mudir was powerless at the time, and the men have not since been punished.

This morning I have received a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, stating that orders have been issued for the capture of Teh-Zachah, dead or alive. I hope similar orders may be issued in Sivas and Adana. The capture of the only robber of any note in this part of the country would have a very desirable effect in checking the disorders which now render travel unsafe for small parties of Christians throughout this district.

There are not any bodies of robbers in sufficient force to resist the Turkish authority if it were properly exerted; but the distribution of the police force might be made with advantage in such a manner that the Kaïmakâms of Azizich (Sivas Vilayet), Evereh (Angora), and Hadjin (Adana) should always have a small body of mounted zaptiehs ready to patrol the country and take immediate action in cases of robbery.

At present the police force of the country seems exhausted in conveying the post, collecting taxes, and acting as escort to those whose safety is obligatory on the Porte; it is miserably commanded, and the presence of zaptiehs is dreaded in outlying places.

In spite of the fear of robbery, which is so widely spread among the natives, I was surprised to meet an American lady travelling between Hadjin and Shahr with only one servant and a native female teacher. Miss Spencer did not express any alarm, but I think the risk she is running can only be justified by the nature of her errand. Miss Spencer is attached to the American Mission at Marasch, and was visiting the Protestant schools in the out-stations.

The inadmissibility of Christian witness and incivility of Government employés to Christians is by no means confined to Hadjin.

The Moslem Courts generally get over the difficulty of refusing to receive Christian evidence by trying the case by Sheriat (Mahommedan law).

The recent changes in the law and administration of justice may possibly do something to remedy the above evils, but the appointment of really honest and capable Governor-Generals and Mutessarifs would bring about the change more rapidly.

With regard to those points of the Hadjin petition which are not touched upon in this despatch, I propose to make certain inquiries when in the Adana Vilayet.

The Kaïmakam of Hadjin is apparently only an instrument in the hands of his superiors, and I should prefer seeing both the Vali of Adana and the Mutessarif of Sis before giving an opinion on certain points brought to my notice during my visit to Hadjin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Précis of Address presented to Captain Cooper, 47th Regiment, by the Bishop and Members of the Armenian Community at Nadjin, the 23rd September, 1879.

AFTER welcoming the English Consul enumerates in eight Articles the troubles they endured since the beginning of the late 1877-78 from the Moslem inhabitants of Nadjin, the Circassians in the neighbourhood, and the Government employés.

Article 1. During the last four years more than ten Armenians have been murdered and fifty-five wounded; animals and merchandize stolen to the value of £ T. 6,000. In spite of reiterated complaints no redress can be obtained from the Government.

Art. 2. Insecurity of the highways from the robberies of Arsclairs and Circassians.

Art. 3. The Turkish officials insult the Christians by calling them "Giaour," and Christian witness not accepted in the Courts.

Art. 4. No Armenians, except the Treasurer, among the Government officials, though Nadjin is an especially Armenian town.

Note.—8,000 out of a population of 8,500 being Armenian.—P. C. C.

Art. 5. The Christians being in the majority, the Kaïmakam should be Christian.

Art. 6. The Government has confiscated a mill, khan, and three shops belonging to the community, and whose rent formerly went to the Church and school.

Art. 7. Nadjin not being a manufacturing town the surplus population have to

seek work, and generally die away from home. Requests that, in the interests of Circassians, a doctor may be appointed and post and telegraph offices opened.

Art. 8. Prays that the taxes may be reduced owing to the rocky and sterile nature of the soil.

Earnest aid is requested to alter and remedy the state of affairs as above depicted.

The document is sealed, and bears the signature of the President and Secretary of the Armenian Commission of Nadjin.

No. 29.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 893.)
Therapia, October 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a further despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, reporting the proceedings of the Reforms Commission for the Aleppo Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, October 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Saïd Pasha left Aleppo on the 17th September, stopping two days at Amtalo, which he purposes revisiting later. He reached Marasch on the 22nd. I joined him here on the 25th, having at his request travelled here separately. To-morrow he leaves for Zeitoun, whither I accompany him. He will not have time to visit Gyuh Sou and Elbestan, as I was so anxious he should.

Before quitting Aleppo he had arranged a distribution of the vilayet into nahiyes (communes), and had also got the reorganization of the gendarmerie for the Sandjak of Aleppo, one of the four sandjaks of the vilayet, well under way.

That of the force of the three other sandjaks will be taken subsequently. On the 29th September he received the news of his appointment as Vali of the province. He retains his post as First Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 30.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 897.)
Therapia, October 20, 1879.

My Lord,

MY attention has been called to a leading article in the "Times" of the 11th instant, and to the letter from a correspondent of that paper at Aintab, upon which it is founded, relating to an outrage committed by Turks upon Armenians. I am having both translated into Turkish, and I shall either place them myself, or have them placed, in the Sultan's hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 900. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I LEFT Constantinople on the 11th ultimo in Her Majesty's ship "Antelope" for Rhodes, with the object of visiting, officially, parts of Syria and of the Archipelago. We reached that island early on the 14th, and spent the day there. The Governor received me with due honours, the best house in the town was placed at my disposal, and I was waited upon during my short stay by all the authorities, civil and religious, the members of the different official departments, the Notables, and deputations from the various communities, Mussulman and Christian, with all of whom I had the opportunity of conversing freely. From the information which I received from them, and from Mr. Albert Biliotti, who has long been attached to the Vice-Consulate and is a man of intelligence, I gathered that the populations were not dissatisfied with their condition or with their Governor. The island shows little signs of progress; its commerce appears to be almost stationary; and since the transfer by Sadyk Pasha, the present Vali of the Archipelago, of the seat of government to Scio, its political importance has diminished. There is a scheme for constructing a harbour at the town of Rhodes. This, I am assured, could be done at small expense, and is much required, as there is now only an open roadstead; but it is, perhaps, more than doubtful whether, under present circumstances, the means could be found for carrying it out. I was shown the plans for it by the Governor. Mussulmans and Christians seemed to be living amicably together, and I received no complaints from the latter of ill-treatment or injustice.

From Rhodes I proceeded to the Syrian coast, and arrived at Jaffa on the morning of the 17th. The Governor of the town and the Secretary-interpreter of the province, Kreiger Effendi, who had been sent by the Vali of Palestine to attend me during my journey in his district, came on board the "Antelope," accompanied by Mr. Consul Moore. A great part of the population, with the authorities and Notables, were on the beach to receive me. I remained during the day in a house prepared for me outside the town, and in the afternoon left for Jerusalem. A road has been constructed between that city and Jaffa, but it has been allowed to fall into ruin. Great exertions had been made to repair the worst parts of it, in view of my arrival; but it is still in very bad condition. Light carriages, belonging to the enterprizing German colonists, who are established near Jaffa, are let for hire, and perform the journey in about ten hours. The tolls of this road are annually farmed. This year the Government has received about 1,000*l.* for them; but the farmers only collect their money, and are not bound to keep the road in order.

I was met on the following morning, at the distance of an hour and a half from Jerusalem, by the Vali, the authorities, the Notables, the heads of the different religious communities, and representatives from all the Consulates. They accompanied me on horseback to the city, the approaches to which were lined with troops and a vast concourse of people, who gave me a most enthusiastic reception. The sight was, in every way, a most remarkable and gratifying one.

During the three days I remained in Jerusalem I had opportunities of seeing and conversing with persons of all classes and creeds. From them I derived a great deal of interesting and useful information. They all agreed in speaking well of the Governor, Reouf Pasha, and in praising his honesty, his strict impartiality, and his evident desire to promote the welfare of the different populations within his Government. He made a very favourable impression upon me. He complained to me greatly of interference from Constantinople, of the manner in which his hands were tied in consequence, and of the difficulties that he had to encounter in his endeavours to administer the vilayet in the true interest of its inhabitants. Men notorious for incapacity and corruption were frequently forced upon him as Kaimakams and Mudirs, and to fill other public functions. He could not dismiss them, because they were supported by the influence of persons in favour or in office at the capital, and yet he was held responsible for the results of their misconduct. The demands upon him for money coming constantly from the Porte had exhausted the means of the province; the troops, the police, and the public employés were unpaid, and he had the greatest difficulty in maintaining order amongst the wild populations of Palestine, and in providing for the public security. Mr. Moore, the foreign Consuls, and other persons, upon whose information I could rely, entirely confirmed the justice of the Vali's complaints and the good opinion I had formed of his character.

That a very considerable change has taken place in Jerusalem since I visited the city many years ago cannot be doubted. The fanaticism which then distinguished the Mussulman population has apparently disappeared. Europeans are now freely admitted to the Mosque of Omar and other places almost as sacred to Mahommedans as the shrines of Mecca and Medina. I was accompanied over them by the Chief "Mullah," who seemed to take much interest and pleasure in showing me everything.

Unfortunately, whilst I can testify to the diminution, or disappearance, of intolerance and persecution of Christians amongst the Mussulmans, I cannot do so as regards the Christian sects with respect to each other. The old rivalries, jealousies, and religious hatreds, which have existed from time immemorial, and have been productive of such fatal consequences, appear to be as rife as ever. Turkish sentries are still posted in the grotto of the Nativity of Bethlehem and in the Holy Sepulchre, to prevent Latins, Greeks, Armenians, and other so-called Christians from breaking each other's heads in their struggles to occupy, or obtain possession of, the sacred spots. I was besieged with complaints against France and French Consular Agents by all the sects, except, of course, the Latins. They declared that the Roman Catholic clergy, supported by France, were depriving them of their property, infringing upon their just rights, and attempting to oust them from their share of the holy places. They had appealed for protection and redress, they said, to the Porte, which recognized the justice of their complaints, and had repeatedly sent orders in their favour to the Vali, who was afraid, however, to put them into execution on account of the protests and menaces of the French Consul. They implored me to use the influence of England, who they knew extended her protection to all without distinction of creeds in their behalf. Their complaints may have been exaggerated, or may frequently have been made upon apparently frivolous and insignificant grounds, such, for instance, as the right to hang up a bit of tapestry, or printed calico, in a subterranean passage leading to the Holy Manger at Bethlehem—a right which has recently been triumphantly asserted, notwithstanding the opposition of the Greeks, by the Latins, supported by France; but there is no doubt that of late French influence has been exercised with unusual energy in Palestine in upholding the pretensions of the Vatican and of the Roman Catholic priests.

Mr. Moore in a recent despatch has, I think, called your Lordship's attention to a number of religious and charitable establishments and institutions under French protection that have been of late years founded in the province. The Greek Church, under Russian protection, continues to erect a school or church or convent for every one built by the Latins; so that the two influences may thus neutralize each other. I subsequently found that this recent attempt to assert a preponderant French influence is being made in other parts of Syria which I visited. My French colleague, speaking to me on my return to Constantinople on this subject, observed that France has been entitled to this influence since the days of the Crusaders; that her interests in Syria were not, as it had been pretended, "sentimental," and that she now intended to show that they were real, and such appears to be the case. I may add that M. Fournier and the French Consular Agents are extremely susceptible and jealous with regard to the influence of England in Syria. My colleague himself told me that he had given instructions that I should be closely watched, and that he had been made acquainted with all that I had said and done during my journey. Judging by one or two instances of my supposed proceedings that he cited to me, I could not congratulate him upon the accuracy of the reports he had received.

With the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem I had more than one interesting confidential conversation on the present condition and future of the Armenians. His views on the subject have considerable importance, in consequence of the influence he exercises. He expressed himself most favourably towards England. His people, he said, looked to her as their protectress, and were deeply grateful for all the efforts she was making to improve their condition, and to secure to them just and equal government. The Armenians, he said, now that the feeling of nationality had spread so much amongst them, and that they looked forward to a time when they might become again an independent people, would never consent to be incorporated with Russia. They knew that if they were so they would be completely absorbed into that great Empire, their nationality would disappear, and all chance of future independence would be gone. Whilst, however, ready to remain under the rule of the Sultan, and to be his loyal subjects, they were firmly resolved to submit no longer to the cruel, unjust, and oppressive treatment to which they had for centuries been subjected by Turkish functionaries and Kurdish Chiefs. The conviction that they could only secure their rights and obtain due protection for their lives and property by the constitution of Armenia as an autonomous province, to be governed by Armenians, was rapidly gaining ground; and I might be certain that, unless something were speedily done to secure to them justice and good government, nothing less would satisfy them.

I assured his Beatitude that Her Majesty's Government were doing their utmost to obtain the introduction into Asia Minor of those reforms which, it was hoped, would

secure to the Armenians the rights they justly demanded; and I begged him to use his influence to persuade them not to enter hastily upon an agitation for autonomy which, considering the large majority of Mussulmans in Armenia, and the fanatical character of the Kurds, might lead to disastrous results, and prevent the ultimate realization of the projects they had in view. He said that he would do as I advised, as he entirely agreed with me as to the danger to be apprehended from a premature movement on their part.

During my short stay at Jerusalem I visited Bethlehem, and was received there with the same demonstrations of welcome as at Jerusalem—the whole population lining the streets and the road leading to the town, and covering the house-tops. The Greek clergy were especially anxious to show me the greatest consideration and respect, with a view, perhaps, to obtain my support in their grievances against the Latins, whom they accused of wishing, with the aid of France, to encroach upon the ancient rights and property of the Greek Church in the Holy Places.

On my passage from Jaffa to Beyrout I landed for a few hours at Caifa to see the German colony established close to the town. It belongs to a kind of religious community under a certain Hoffman. The colonists have built many good houses, have constructed an excellent road through their property, and are cultivating the land they have acquired. The experiment, I was informed, which had not at first succeeded, promised to be this year remunerative. The object of the community is not conversion, but to afford a good example by industrious labour and sober habits. The Governor of Acre, who had come to Caifa, which is in his district, to receive me, spoke well of the results upon the native population. The German Embassy has succeeded in obtaining from the Porte permission for the colony to register, in its corporate capacity, the property it possesses. This is of considerable advantage, and is, I believe, the first instance of such a permission having been accorded. Caifa has, on the whole, a prosperous appearance, and may become a place of some importance should the project of constructing a railway from it to Tiberias, and to other places in the interior, be carried out; but a harbour is required here, as at other places on the Syrian coast.

I visited the convent of Mount Carmel, over which the French flag was flying, and where I was received by the French Consul, who had hastened there for the purpose.

On my arrival at Beyrout, the Governor of the town, Raif Effendi, the "Directeur Politique" of the vilayet, Vassif Effendi, sent by Midhat Pasha from Damascus to welcome me, Her Majesty's Consul-General, and a number of the notables of the town, came on board the "Antelope." The troops were drawn up at the landing-place, and an immense concourse of people, including the Mufti and Cadi, the Municipality, the officials of the different Departments, and the members of the judicial Tribunals, were there to greet me. I was entertained by the members of the Municipality, who had provided one of the best houses in the town, belonging to a wealthy Christian, Jouhanna Effendi Shakour Irad, for my reception, and gave me a public dinner, at which toasts to the health of Her Majesty the Queen and of the Sultan were drank and speeches made.

During the day I received visits from Rustem Pasha, who had come to Beyrout to meet me, and from deputations from the English colony, from different public bodies, from the heads of the various religious communities, and from the clergy of Mount Lebanon. I had thus a good opportunity of obtaining information as to the condition of the country and of the populations. The persons whom I questioned agreed in speaking in high terms of Midhat Pasha and of Raif Effendi, who has the reputation of being a most honest, liberal-minded, and energetic public functionary. They expressed full confidence in the good intentions of the Vali, and assured me that his administration of the province had already produced very favourable results. They earnestly begged me to use my influence to keep him in his present post, as the constant change of Governors was most detrimental to the interests of Syria. There were loud complaints on all sides of the interference of the Porte, which prevented Midhat Pasha and other well-disposed Governors from administering the province for the welfare of its inhabitants. Incompetent and corrupt officials were imposed upon them; they were thwarted in all their endeavours to introduce real reforms, and their hands were tied by orders from Constantinople, which were attributed to the bad influence of the "Palace." I was assured that the new regulations for the reform of the judicial Tribunals had produced general confusion, and had rendered the administration of justice more unsatisfactory and more corrupt than it had been before their promulgation.

Beyrout has made much progress since I visited it years ago. It has now an air of wealth and prosperity rarely seen in Turkey. Spacious and handsome houses, and educational and other establishments belonging to the English, American, and Roman Catholic Missions have risen on all sides. Great improvements are being made in the town by opening new streets, and the population appears to be well-to-do.

I was accompanied on my way to Damascus by Vassif Effendi, who remained with me during the whole of my journey in Syria, and was unremitting in his attentions to me. Midhat Pasha had made every preparation to enable me to travel with comfort, and, indeed, luxury. There is now an excellent carriage-road between the two cities, constructed by a French company, which has an entire monopoly of the traffic, no hired vehicle being allowed to run upon it; the consequence is that a great portion of the carrying trade is still done by camels, mules, or donkeys, which use the rough tracks running for the most part of the way by the side of the road. The journey to Damascus is performed by the "diligence" in about fourteen hours.

At Shtora, the half-way station between Damascus and Beyrout, I found tents pitched for us, and deputations from Zahli and the neighbouring Christian and Mussulman villages waiting to receive me. Midhat Pasha had also sent Ibrahim Pasha, the Governor of Damascus, to meet me. At about one hour's distance from the city I found his Highness himself with a large number of Mussulman notables, including the religious authorities, who had come out to receive me. He had stopped at a country house belonging to Abd-el-Kadr, who was also there to welcome me. As we approached the city gates we passed through a vast crowd, which showed me the most marked respect. There must have been many thousand present, and I never saw a more striking and interesting spectacle. I was the more impressed by it when I remembered that this great concourse of people consisted chiefly of Mussulmans, the population of a city which not many years ago was considered one of the most fanatical in the Empire, and in which a Christian could not show himself on horseback, and except he wore a particular dress.

The only unpleasant incident of my journey occurred on this occasion, and I refer to it as Mr. Malet reported it to your Lordship. I perceived, as I was entering Damascus, that the troops which had been drawn up to salute me were suddenly marched off in haste. Moreover, none of the military authorities had come to meet me as they had done elsewhere. Midhat Pasha expressed to me, on my arrival in the city, his great regret and indignation at what had occurred, which he attributed to a design on the part of the Mushir, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, to put a slight upon him. He informed me that, as this proceeding on the part of the Commander-in-chief had produced a very bad impression upon the population, he should telegraph to the Porte to complain of his conduct. I thought it, therefore, desirable, in justice to Midhat Pasha, to inform the Sultan of what had taken place. His Majesty immediately sent me a very gracious message, expressing his great regret, and promising a strict inquiry. Ahmed Eyoub Pasha received at the same time a communication which led him to call upon me at once to offer his excuses. On my departure he accompanied me with all his staff at half-past 3 in the morning to some distance from the city, where the troops were drawn up and the band was playing. He pretended that they had been withdrawn on my arrival because the sun had set, it being contrary to the regulations that they should present arms after that time.

The best house in Damascus, belonging to Said Pasha, the wealthiest notable of the city, was placed at my disposal, and during the three days that I remained there I received a constant flow of visitors from all classes of the population. The Municipality gave me a dinner in the public garden recently opened by Midhat Pasha, at which his Highness presided. I inclose a report of a speech which I made on proposing the health of the Sultan, and of Midhat Pasha's reply. I was assured afterwards by the Cadi and other Mussulman notables, civil and religious, that what I had said met with their entire approval, and that it was their earnest wish, as well as that of the Mahommedan population in general, to live in peace and harmony with their Christian fellow-citizens, and to see them in the enjoyment of those rights to which all the Sultan's subjects were entitled. After the dinner there were fireworks and illuminations, and a representation at the Turkish theatre, where a melodrama and a farce, translated from the French, were very fairly acted by Turks and Armenians. I mention these details as they afford interesting proofs of the great change to which I have alluded as having taken place in the Mussulman population, much of which is owing to Midhat Pasha.

Of Midhat Pasha's earnest desire to improve the condition of the province, to develop its resources, to encourage agriculture and commerce, and to govern justly and impartially, all with whom I had an opportunity of conversing spoke in very warm terms. I was earnestly requested, as I had been at Beyrout, to use my influence at Constantinople to prevent his removal, and to obtain for him fuller powers and more liberty of action. If, they declared, he were dismissed and replaced by a Governor-General such as his predecessor, Djevdet Pasha, and the work of reform and improvement upon which he was engaged were thus again interrupted, the discontent and disaffection which already existed on account of the state of things at Constantinople would show themselves in a way that might lead to serious consequences.

On the other hand, there is a small fanatical party who are opposed to the liberal policy of the Vali, and are doing their best by intrigues at the capital to obtain his dismissal. He was publicly denounced by a Sheikh in the great mosque as an unbeliever, and as given to all the vices of the European. I regret to say that the French Consul at Damascus, M. Gilbert, has apparently sided with this party, and has sent very exaggerated reports against his Highness to the French Ambassador. But M. de la Porte, the French Consul-General at Beyrout, who appeared to me to be a moderate and fair man, expressed himself to me as highly satisfied with what his Highness was doing for the province. Midhat Pasha has no doubt faults, may be vices, but, from what I have been able to observe, he has qualities which place him far above most other Turkish functionaries with whom I am acquainted, and to remove him from his Government at the present time would, in my opinion, check the progress of reform and prove a calamity for Syria.

His Highness spoke to me very unreservedly as to his own position. He said that every endeavour was being made to render it untenable, and that he was about to send in his resignation when he had heard of my approaching visit to Syria. He had withheld it in the hope that personal communication with me, and the account that I would be able to give of the condition of Syria, might lead to a change of policy at Constantinople. He had against him the fanatical and retrograde party at the capital, which had unfortunately regained its influence at the Palace. That party was determined that the reforms which the Sultan had pledged himself to introduce should not be carried out, and every conceivable difficulty was thrown in his way when he endeavoured to put them into execution. Attempts were made to impose upon him, as Kaimakams and Mudirs, ignorant, fanatical, and corrupt men, whom he could not dismiss, as they were supported by powerful persons, and over whom he could exercise no control, yet for whose acts he was held responsible. The "Mushir," or Commander-in-Chief of the troops, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, whose reputation was notorious, was entirely independent of him, and took every means to thwart him and to place him in difficulties by finding excuses to refuse the assistance of troops when they were urgently needed to maintain order or to put down outbreaks. At the last "Bairam" he had refused to allow them and the military band to attend the annual reception at the "konak," as is the custom in all parts of Turkey, in order to put a public slight upon him. To add to his troubles, Djemil Pasha, the son of Namyk Pasha, who is in intimate relations with the Sultan, had been sent to Damascus as a spy upon him, and to intrigue against him.

The demands for money upon him were so constant and peremptory that he was compelled to have recourse to very harsh measures to raise it, which naturally tended to render him unpopular and to excite complaints against him. He had first received orders to pay at once no less than £ T. 95,000 for the Mecca caravan, and he was now collecting it in the best way he could. This, his Highness said, was a ridiculous and useless expenditure. The pilgrims were only about 700 or 800 in number, the greater part of them not even Turkish subjects, and they might be sent by sea for a few hundred pounds (your Lordship will remember that the Porte has informed me that this caravan will be discontinued for the future). In the meanwhile he was unable to pay the public employés, the gendarmerie, the troops—some of whom were, he believed, no less than forty months in arrears—and the annual subvention of £ T. 50,000 to the Lebanon. His Highness gave me the inclosed memorandum of the receipts and expenditure of the vilayet for this year.

This state of things was causing, his Highness said, general discontent and disaffection to the Sultan. If the Porte persisted in its present policy he anticipated very serious troubles in Syria, as the whole population, Christian and Mussulman, were united in a determination not to submit much longer to be governed as they had hitherto been. The recent Regulations for the reform of the Judicial Tribunals, which had produced universal confusion, rendering the administration of justice worse than before, had added to this universal discontent.

I asked his Highness whether he had any information with respect to a Mussulman or Arab conspiracy, the centre of which was said to be at Medina or Mecca, one of its objects being to dethrone the present dynasty and to establish an Arab Kingdom or Empire. I told his Highness that, from official reports which had reached me, it appeared that agents had been sent amongst all the Mussulman populations of the Turkish Empire, and even to Algeria, to prepare them for insurrection.

His Highness admitted that facts had recently come to his knowledge which confirmed this information. He had learnt that a certain Sheikh Ali, a native of the Hedjas, and probably one of the agents to whom I alluded, was secretly enrolling persons in Syria in a kind of brotherhood, that he had even succeeded in doing so amongst the troops, and that secret committees had been formed in some of the principal towns. It had been stated to him

that there were already no less than 100,000 persons in Syria who had enrolled themselves, but their number was probably greatly exaggerated. He intended, he said, to go to Acre, in the neighbourhood of which Sheikh Ali was residing, to investigate thoroughly the whole affair, which he considered one of great importance. I told him that on my return to Constantinople I should probably mention the matter to the Sultan, and he expressed a wish that I should do so.

Consul Henderson, in his despatch to me of , refers to secret committees as existing in Aleppo, and I heard that similar committees have been established in Damascus, Beyrout, and other places. But it is possible that they may have no relation to the conspiracy referred to by Consul Zohrab in his despatch to your Lordship, Secret and Confidential, of the 12th March last, which appears to be exclusively Mussulman, and to be directed against Christians. I am assured that the secret committees in Syria were composed of Mahommedans and Christians alike, and that their object was to bring about a movement to free the province from the misgovernment of the Porte, and to establish some kind of Arab autonomy.

Midhat Pasha spoke in despair of the condition of Turkey. He declared his conviction that, unless the Sultan called to his counsels, without loss of time, liberal and energetic men, who were resolved to carry out the promised reforms loyally and vigorously, and freed himself from the pernicious influences which prevailed over him, his Empire must inevitably fall to pieces. He almost doubted whether there were yet means to save it. He was in confidential communication, he said, with persons in the provinces in whom he had perfect confidence, and he believed that the discontent which the present state of things at Constantinople was everywhere causing was much deeper and more formidable than was generally supposed.

His Highness is, I have every reason to believe, doing his best to ameliorate the condition of Syria, and to introduce the required reforms. He has formed a gendarmerie which seems to be good and effective as far as it goes. But, owing to want of funds, the number of men is much too limited to be of real use. I may mention that the six gendarmes whom he placed at my disposal, during the time that I was at Damascus, spoke some French. As no English officer has been sent to organize the gendarmerie, he has placed it under a certain Murad Bey, a Pole or Hungarian, of whom I heard favourable reports. He is making roads—one between Baalbec and Shtora is now being completed, and is to be continued to Homs and Hamah. A tramway is about to be laid down from the sea-coast to Tripoli, which he hopes to be able to carry eventually to Homs. He is desirous of encouraging public works and the employment of European capital in the province. But I have no doubt that, as he complains, the difficulties thrown in his way from Constantinople prevent him from carrying out his intentions, and from taking really effective measures for the improvement of the Administration.

From Damascus I visited Baalbec. On my way thither I was received by the inhabitants of the villages through which I passed, and by deputations from many others at a distance, with the same warmth and cordiality that I experienced elsewhere during my journey. Amongst those who came to meet me were the Sheikhs of a Bedouin tribe, a branch of the Aneysch, encamped in the plains between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and a number of Mutuali Chiefs. I heard from all the same assurances of gratitude to England, and of confidence in the efforts she was making for the welfare and good government of Turkey.

I remained a night at Aleyieh, the summer residence of Mr. Eldridge, in the mountains above Beyrout. There I was met by Rustem Pasha and by the principal Druse Chiefs, and deputations from some of the Druse villages. Her Majesty's Consul-General had been good enough to prepare a fête in my honour, at which I had an opportunity of seeing some of the principal European and Christian residents at Beyrout, and many of the leading Maronite Notables.

On the following morning, accompanied by Rustem Pasha, and by a large escort of the Lebanon cavalry and a number of mounted Druse Chiefs, I left Aleyieh for Bet-ed-din, the residence of the Governor-General of the Mountain. To give your Lordship an adequate description of my reception by the Druse population, I should have to use language little suited to a despatch. The roads were lined by thousands of men and women bearing olive branches and singing hymns of welcome. My progress through the Mountain was a triumphal march. My visit to Moktara, the residence of the great Druse family of Jumblat, was one of great interest. My reception there was truly enthusiastic. I had everywhere proofs of the devotion of the Druses to England, and of their gratitude to her for the powerful protection which she has afforded them. I inclose an address delivered to me by the students of the Druse College, which curiously expresses these sentiments.

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I have no reason to complain of my reception by the inhabitants of the Maronite districts through which I passed. Quite the contrary. Although naturally less demonstrative and enthusiastic than that of the Druses, amongst whom the influence of England has been so long predominant, it was scarcely less cordial.

I was entertained with great distinction and hospitality by Rustem Pasha. The picturesque fortress-palace of Bet-ed-din, the surrounding houses, and the village of Dir-el-Kamer, on the opposite side of the ravine, were brilliantly illuminated at night. The Lebanon regiment of militia and the gendarmerie were paraded before me, and I had an opportunity of observing their excellent organization. They afford a striking instance of what might and ought to be done in Turkey to employ Christians in the army and police. In the two corps that I inspected there is no distinction of creed. Officers and men are, indifferently, Druses and Christians, and I was informed by Rustem Pasha that they acted cordially together. I visited with his Excellency the Tribunals and the different official departments of his Government. I was struck by their simplicity and apparent order. I heard no complaints with regard to the administration of justice; public order is perfectly maintained; there appears to be entire security for life and property, and the population seemed to be contented and satisfied with the manner in which they were governed. In all these respects the Lebanon offers a striking contrast to other parts of the Empire.

Up to the time of his visit to Constantinople last spring, when he was proposed as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, the administration of Rustem Pasha had been remarkably successful. He had earned the confidence of both Druses and Maronites by his strict impartiality, and the firmness and energy of his rule. He had held in check the ambitious and covetous Maronite clergy; and peace and order, which their intrigues had frequently disturbed, had consequently been secured to the Lebanon. Since his return to his Government his policy appears to have been, to a certain extent, changed. He is no longer on the same intimate and cordial terms with Her Majesty's Consul-General. He seems to be endeavouring to break up the union and good understanding amongst the Druses which he had previously promoted, by setting up as rivals to the Jumblat family, whom he had previously favoured and protected, the family of Roslan, a member of which, the Emir Mustafa, he has named to the office of Kaimakam. Although he still denounces the arrogance and ambition of the Maronite clergy, he is no longer so ready to hold them down, and to prevent their interference in the affairs of the mountain. There is reason to suspect that this change is owing to the policy which France is now pursuing, and the pressure brought to bear upon him by her. I have already referred to the endeavours she is making to extend her influence in Syria. The mode in which Rustem Pasha was governing the Lebanon did not apparently suit her. She does not desire equality of treatment for Druses and Christians, but wishes the Maronite clergy to acquire again the upper hand in the mountain. Although the French Consul-General supported and encouraged Rustem Pasha in putting a stop to the intrigues of Bishop Bistani by removing him forcibly to Jerusalem, the French Government soon gave way before the outcry of the clerical party in France. Rustem Pasha was compelled to permit the return of the Bishop, who was brought back to Beyrout in a French ship of war, and is now living, defiantly, within a stone's throw of the Palace at Bet-ed-din, without having any intercourse with the Governor-General. The Maronite clergy consequently consider that he has had a signal triumph. The French Government seems determined that Rustem Pasha shall retire, or be recalled, to make room for Nasri Bey, who, from the reports that I have received as to his character, appears to be an honest but weak man, who will become a mere tool in the hands of the Maronite clergy. It has recently conferred upon Rustem Pasha the "Grand Cordon" of the Legion of Honour, and he has been promised the support of France in obtaining the Embassy at Paris, which he much covets, if he should resign. These intrigues, and the division that he seems desirous of creating amongst the Druses by opposing the Roslans to the Jumblats, has undoubtedly weakened his position in the Lebanon. He feels it himself, and spoke to me seriously about resigning. If he were to do so, he would only be playing into the hands of France, unless the Powers who have guaranteed the "Règlement" were to insist, as I presume they have a right to do, upon having a voice in the appointment of the next Governor-General, and were not disposed to accept a French nominee.

Rustem Pasha did his utmost to prevent me visiting the Jumblats at Mouktara, their residence, but as I had accepted an invitation from the young Chiefs through Mr. Eldridge, I was not to be deterred from doing so. This family, after the events of 1860 and the death of their Chief, Said Bey, was, on the recommendation, I believe, of Lord Dufferin, placed under the protection of Her Majesty's Consul-General. It was at that time encumbered with debts and almost ruined. Through the skilful management of its affairs by Mr. Eldridge during a period of sixteen years, the two brothers, Nejib and Nezib Beys,

who represent the family, have now an income of between 8,000*l.* and 10,000*l.* a-year between them. As he has had the superintendence of their education from their childhood, they naturally look up to him as a father. They both speak a little English, and the youngest is a very intelligent youth, but, according to Rustem Pasha, presumptuous and ambitious.

Rustem Pasha, seeing that I was determined to go to Moukatara, accompanied me there, but, I regret to say, behaved with downright rudeness to the Chiefs and their mother, a lady of influence and much respected in the Mountain. I received many complaints from Druses and Maronites against his Excellency for endeavouring to create dissensions amongst the Druses, and especially for his treatment of the Jumblat family, which, I am assured, has the support of at least three-fourths of the Druse nation. It is to be feared that if he persists in his present policy, future troubles may be anticipated in the Lebanon.

I inclose a memorandum of the number of the Maronite clergy in the Lebanon. It is, as your Lordship will see, utterly out of proportion to the Maronite population. Even respectable Maronites expressed their regret to me that their clergy, who, by menacing and using their influence over the sick and dying, and by other unfair and illegal means, were acquiring a great part of the lands of Mount Lebanon, who, for the most part, were immoral and unscrupulous in their conduct, who were doing their utmost to prevent the Roman Catholic children from receiving a liberal education, and who were endeavouring to establish a priestly government in its worst form in the Mountain, should receive the countenance and support of France.

I was struck by the fact that, on entering a Maronite village, I was assailed by beggars, whereas in the Druse villages I saw none. The Druses have a much more manly and independent appearance than the Maronites, and, I was assured, bore a better character. They may play an important part hereafter should there be troubles in the Lebanon or Syria. Their devotion to England is remarkable, and the day may come when they may prove valuable allies. Their condition is rapidly improving. Many of the principal Druse families send their children to the American or French educational establishments at Beyrout. A college founded in the Mountain by Daoud Pasha, and called after him the "Daoudiyeh," has English and French professors, and I met several Chiefs who spoke English.

The non-payment this year of the subvention of the Lebanon, amounting to 50,000*l.*, is a cause of serious embarrassment and uneasiness to Rustem Pasha. Midhat Pasha, who has been ordered to find the money, declares that he is utterly unable to do so. It may be a matter worthy of consideration whether, considering the present flourishing condition of the Mountain, this subvention might not cease. Rustem Pasha seemed to think it was desirable that it should, and that the inhabitants were so lightly taxed that they would make no difficulty in paying a little more to avoid receiving a money contribution which had the effect of rendering them, to a certain extent, more dependent upon the Porte. His Excellency mentioned, as an instance of the effect of this subvention, that he had just received an order from Constantinople to reduce all the salaries of public functionaries by 10 per cent. This, he said, was an unwise measure, because it was by paying adequately those who were employed in the public service that he had succeeded in having a trustworthy gendarmerie, honest Judges, and good administration. Had the Lebanon not received a subvention, the Porte could not have interfered in such a matter.

On my return to Beyrout I was invited to meet, before embarking, the members of a kind of Chamber of Commerce and Bourse, which has been recently established there through the influence of Midhat Pasha. About forty members were present, Mussulmans and Christians, and I had a very interesting conversation with them. They expressed, in very decided terms and unanimously, the determination of the Arabs of Syria, without distinction of creed, not to be governed, as they had hitherto been, from Constantinople. They gave me to understand that if Midhat Pasha, with whose administration and desire to promote the welfare of the province they said they were highly satisfied, were removed, the feeling of discontent and hostility to the Turkish authorities might show itself in a very serious manner.

In consequence of the small speed of the "Antelope," and of my anxiety to return to Constantinople, I was reluctantly compelled to give up my intended visit to Tripoli and Latakia. On the 4th I met Admiral Hornby and the fleet at Larnaka, and had the advantage of communicating with Mr. Cobham, the Commissioner at that place. On the 6th I touched at Adalia, where I was received by the Governor, Hafiz Mehmet Bey, the other public functionaries, and the notables. The town promises to become of some importance as a shipping place for the produce of Asia Minor, but the Province of Konia, in which it is situated, has suffered with other parts of Turkey from the results of the

war, and from this year's drought. I found, however, three English steamers in the roadstead. The Governor has the reputation of being an honest man; I liked what I saw of him; and he is giving satisfaction to the population. He was formerly first Chamberlain to Sultan Abdul Aziz. He complained, as other Governors had done to me, that he was not allowed sufficient liberty of action, that he had no money, and that the new regulations concerning the judicial tribunals had caused the greatest confusion and discontent in his district.

From Adalia I went to Samos, where I was received with the greatest distinction and consideration by the Prince, Adossides Pasha, and the inhabitants. The Senate, the members of the Municipality, the Judges, the notables, and deputations from the town and from villages in the interior waited upon me, and addressed me in highly complimentary speeches. The people of Samos were not ignorant that it was through my influence that Adossides Pasha, of whom all spoke in high terms, had been appointed their Governor, and that, on my representations, some changes which they had asked for in the Organic law had been made, although my French colleague had taken credit to himself for these things in an official letter addressed to the Samian Senate. Shortly before I left Constantinople Mr. Consul Marc, who appears to enjoy great influence and respect in the island, had informed me that the Samians were dissatisfied with their Senate, and demanded its summary dismissal. I communicated on the subject with the Porte, and a Commissioner, a Greek named Agathopoulo, was sent to the island to inquire into the matter; upon his report the demands of the inhabitants were complied with. He was still there, and, Greek like, was endeavouring to form a party for himself in opposition to the Prince, with the object of displacing and succeeding him. I was earnestly requested, in consequence, to obtain his immediate recall. I telegraphed, through Mr. Malet, to Safvet Pasha on the subject, and orders were at once sent to M. Agathopoulo to return to Constantinople.

I may mention that the popular Chamber, or Samian Parliament, meets annually for about thirty days, and that when prorogued it elects eight members, out of whom the Prince selects four, who remain to represent it, and to carry on public business. These four form what is called the Senate: the Senators who had been last chosen were attempting, in the opinion of the population, to encroach upon the rights of the Prince, and to exercise powers which did not belong to them. The inhabitants of the island had consequently sent deputations to the town of Samos, to peremptorily demand that they should be replaced by the four that had been put aside. It was curious to find popular opinion supporting the Representative of the Sultan against their own elected representatives.

I was much interested in this flourishing and well-ordered little democratic community, the peace of which is only rarely disturbed by that spirit of intrigue which seems to be inherent in the Greek race. As far as I could learn, justice is well and impartially administered. The Judges whom I saw appeared honest and simple men. I was told that some of the young Samians now went to Athens to study the law, in order to hold this office. Those who spoke to me on the subject seemed to think that this did not promise well for the future of the island. The police force, which was drawn out to receive me, appeared to be a well-organized body, and wore a convenient and handsome uniform. The only grievance of which I heard was that the Porte still maintained in the island a small number of troops, to whose good conduct, however, every one bore willing testimony. Another grievance—which was not, however, brought to my notice—is, I believe, that capital sentences must be confirmed by the Sultan before being put into execution. The Samians say that this prevents the summary punishment of pirates and assassins, who are unfortunately not rare in the Greek islands.

The Prince gave me a banquet, and in the evening the Municipality illuminated the town and discharged fireworks in my honour.

From Samos I proceeded to Scio, where I was received with the greatest kindness and honour by Sadyk Pasha, the Governor-General of the Archipelago. He lodged us in his own house, gave me a banquet, and introduced to me the notables, Mussulman and Christian. The Municipality presented me with an address, of which I inclose a copy.

During the day I remained at Scio I had much interesting confidential conversation with his Highness. He complained of the interference from Constantinople, and of the difficulties placed in his way. His opinion as to the present state of Turkey was in all respects similar to that of Midhat Pasha. He expressed his conviction that, unless means were found to deliver the Sultan from the evil influence of the persons by whom he is now surrounded, to place the Government in the hands of competent and energetic men of liberal opinions, and to enforce the loyal and vigorous execution of the promised reforms, the Empire must speedily fall to pieces. Scio is improving under his government. He is endeavouring to execute public works; and the population appears to be convinced that

he is doing his best for their welfare. But, unfortunately, they feel at the same time that, before he can carry out his good intentions, some adverse influence at the capital will probably lead to his recall, and that they will have to return to the old state of things.

I passed one day and part of another at Smyrna. Hambi Pasha, the Vali, who, as your Lordship may remember, was for a short time Grand Vizier, is an upright and capable Governor, but somewhat wanting in energy and activity. The people of Smyrna are, I was informed, satisfied with him, and would be sorry to lose him. In a long confidential conversation with him he expressed the same opinion that I had heard from Midhat and Sadyk Pashas as to the precarious state of the Empire, owing to the evil influences, corruption and maladministration, which prevailed at Constantinople. He said that his hands were bound—that he was thwarted in all his attempts to introduce radical reforms into his Government—and that the drain upon the resources of the province, in consequence of the unceasing demands for money by the Porte, left him no means of forming an effective gendarmerie, and of properly paying the police and the public functionaries. The result was that there was an utter want of security for life and property up to the very walls of the city—that brigandage flourished—and that robberies and murders were of constant occurrence.

His account of the condition of the province was fully confirmed to me by the English residents and others. I inclose a letter from Smyrna, printed in a Constantinople paper, which relates an incident that occurred on my visit to the ruins of Ephesus. It affords a somewhat amusing illustration of the state of one of the most flourishing parts of the Empire, within easy reach of the capital. I was assured that the inhabitants of Bournabet, a village at a short distance from Smyrna, where European and other merchants are in the habit of spending the summer months, are afraid to venture far from their houses, and several instances of murders recently committed, and of persons carried off for ransom, in the neighbourhood of the city, were brought to my notice. In fact, the condition of the province, from the want of an effective gendarmerie, is simply disgraceful.

I had an opportunity of communicating with the leading members of the British community, and of discussing with them several questions connected with their interests, such as those relating to the Smyrna Quay, to the election of a European member of the Municipality, &c., which I trust I may be able to settle.

A striking improvement has certainly taken place in Smyrna during the last few years. The new quays and harbour are important and useful works, for which the city is indebted to a French Company. The Cassaba and Aidin Railways, which are about to be extended, have brought a large tract of previously desert country into cultivation, and by placing the city into easy direct communication with the interior have added considerably to its commercial prosperity. Of the new judicial regulations I heard, as I had elsewhere, general complaints.

I reached Constantinople on the 13th instant. It was with regret that I was compelled to renounce my intention of visiting several other places on the Asia Minor coast. But my time was limited, and Her Majesty's ship "Antelope" slow. I have omitted to mention that I was accompanied by Sir Alfred Sandison and Mr. Nicolson, who were of great use to me.

To sum up the general results of my observations during my journey:—

1. I am convinced, from all I saw and heard, that the influence of England in that part of the Turkish Empire which I visited is predominant over that of all other countries, and that it is founded upon a real feeling of gratitude to and trust in her on the part of the various populations, Mussulman and Christian. Allowance must, of course, be made for much that was said to me on this subject for exaggeration, and for the desire to please usual to Orientals. But fully admitting this to be the case, I have no doubt as to the existence of the feeling which I have described. France is making great efforts to increase and extend her influence amongst the Roman Catholic Christians of Syria and Palestine through their clergy. She is excessively jealous of that of England, and her agents are doing their best to counteract it and thwart us whenever an occasion offers. I heard of no active intrigues on the part of Russia; but her agents avail themselves, with their usual skill, of the existing discontent, and the dissensions between the religious sects, to promote her object, which would appear to be the speedy dissolution of the Turkish Empire.

2. The condition of Syria, as far as I have been able to judge, has, notwithstanding its bad government and the neglect of the Porte, much improved of late years, and shows signs of further improvement. The same may be said of the Archipelago.

3. The fanaticism formerly existing among the Mussulmans of Syria and Palestine has greatly diminished, and the Christians live on good terms with their Mahommedan fellow-citizens, and are no longer subjected, at least openly, to persecution, ill-treatment, and

insult. Whether there is still a latent hatred and jealousy of the Christians which might break out again under provocation, or through the incitement of Muhommedan agents and Sheikhs, I am unable to say. I heard nothing from the many Christians of the various communities with whom I conversed to lead me to believe that such might be the case. A public opinion is rapidly forming, principally by means of the press, which tends to unite the different populations. As all classes appear to read the many newspapers that are now published in Syria, and as they have the same reasons to be dissatisfied with the manner in which they are governed, they have common views and interests.

4. The administration of justice is thoroughly bad and corrupt, and has been rendered worse by the recent regulations, which have for their apparent object the reform of the Tribunals. The Judges are, with few exceptions, ignorant and venal. Upon this subject all, the authorities included, are agreed. Christian evidence seems to be generally received, although mostly in an indirect fashion. A law is urgently required to make its reception obligatory in all cases.

5. There is general discontent and dissatisfaction in consequence of the effects on the provinces of the maladministration, corruption, and evil influences that prevail at Constantinople. This universal feeling threatens to take the form ere long of open disaffection to the Sultan and the dynasty. It may thus lead to very disastrous consequences, unless the misgovernment, injustice, and want of public security, of which the populations so loudly and justly complain, are speedily put an end to by the introduction of radical reforms, and by a more energetic and vigorous rule. Upon this subject I had the advantage of hearing the opinions of three of the most intelligent and experienced Turkish statesmen who have filled the office of Grand Vizier, and who are now Governors of important provinces—Midhat, Sadyk, and Hamdi Pashas, and they agreed in describing the danger to the Empire, in consequence of the present state of things, as very imminent.

6. All the Governors whom I found in the places that I visited had the reputation of being honest and impartial men, and of being desirous of doing their best for the welfare of the populations, which appeared to be well satisfied with them. But they all complained that they had but little liberty of action, that their powers had been so curtailed by the centralizing system which now prevailed, and that they were subject to such constant interference from the Porte, and were so constantly thwarted in their efforts to do good through the evil influences existing in high quarters, that all their endeavours to introduce radical reforms and to satisfy the just demands and requirements of the people committed to their charge were vain.

7. The financial condition of the Empire is deplorable, and threatens serious disasters. The army, so long unpaid, may end by disbanding. The purveyors have already, in many places, refused to supply the troops any longer with food, and Midhat Pasha intercepted a telegram from the Mushir to the Commandant at Beyrout telling him that, as bread could not be distributed to the soldiers, they must help themselves, i.e., plunder the shops. The salaries of the public functionaries are everywhere in arrears. The greatest distress prevails amongst all classes. There is nothing left out of the revenues of the provinces, which are absorbed by the demands from Constantinople, to develop their resources, for public works, and for the police absolutely necessary for the public security.

8. The desire for self-government, or autonomy, is spreading. It is showing itself strongly in the Arab population of Syria, and is uniting Mussulmans and Christians in a common determination to resist their exclusion in future from all share in the administration of their own affairs. They are no longer willing to be sacrificed to the official class at Constantinople, from which their Governors and the other public functionaries in the provinces are chosen, who misgovern and plunder the native populations, of whose wants and language they are entirely ignorant. If the information that reached me is to be depended upon, a very little provocation, perhaps the recall of Midhat Pasha and the appointment of another such Vali as Djevdet Pasha, would lead in Syria to open resistance to Turkish authority.

In conclusion, I have every reason to believe that my visit to Syria and the Archipelago has had an excellent effect and will produce good results. It has shown the populations that England takes a true interest in their just and equal government, their welfare, and their prosperity; and the Turkish authorities that Her Majesty's Government is resolved that the reforms which are necessary to secure them shall be put into execution. As regards myself personally, I everywhere experienced the most gratifying reception, and the warmest assurances, both from Mussulmans and Christians, that what I had been able to do for their protection, and to obtain for them their rights, was fully understood and appreciated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Speech of Sir A. H. Layard at Damascus.

I BEG to propose a toast to the health of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. As his Majesty has deigned to honour me with his friendship, I have had frequent opportunities of appreciating his intelligence, his feelings of sympathy for his subjects, without distinction of race or creed, his earnest desire for the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of his Empire, and his true patriotism. His Majesty takes a lively interest in all that concerns his country, and I can say that no Ruler is more fully penetrated with a sense of his duty or devotes himself with greater assiduity to public affairs.

I shall have an opportunity on my return, and I shall not fail to take advantage of it, to express to His Majesty the satisfaction I have felt in witnessing the progress which Syria is now making. The friendship of England for Turkey is well known—a friendship which has lasted for more than two centuries. We can attribute the interest and the sympathy which the English people feel in the prosperity of this great Empire to several reasons. To a certain extent, England herself is a Muhommedan Power. Among the subjects of the Queen, my august Sovereign, are many millions of Mussulmans. I can assure you that they enjoy the most perfect liberty, and are on a footing of perfect equality with their fellow-subjects. We do all that lies in our power to promote their welfare; we respect, as is but right, their religion, and they fill some of the highest posts in our administration. These privileges we ask for the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. We wish that all his subjects, Mussulmans and Christians, should be equal in the eye of the law, and that they should be governed with justice. This great principle has been constantly maintained by the eminent statesman to whom His Majesty has confided the government of Syria. I congratulate you on the fortunate and happy selection which His Majesty made, and I feel convinced that Midhat Pasha, by his untiring energy, by his spirit of justice, and by his conciliatory disposition, will raise this beautiful province to the rank of one of the most flourishing and the most important in the Ottoman Empire.

I must convey my warmest thanks to his Highness, as well as to the town of Damascus, to her notables, and to her whole population, for the cordial and hospitable welcome they have been kind enough to give me. I shall for ever retain a most pleasing recollection of my visit, and I shall deem myself fortunate if I am able to show my gratitude in furthering, in however slight a degree, the interests of this noble and ancient city.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Midhat Pasha's Speech.

(Translation.)

IT is a very great honour for us to see in our midst to-day the Ambassador of an illustrious Power like England, which, by preserving unchanged for so many years friendly political relations with the Ottoman Empire, is now our first faithful friend and ally, a person who is esteemed and honoured by all the world, and to hear from his lips projects which conduce to the prosperity and happiness of our country and people. I therefore am happy to be the medium of conveying the thanks due to him from all classes of the people of Syria. The evidences of kindly feeling which Sir Henry Layard has shown, especially to me, form a new and important chapter of the instructions necessary for my guidance in matters which concern the spiritual and temporal welfare of His Imperial Majesty's subjects, Mussulman and Christian, and in the discharge of my administrative duties in the vilayet with which, unworthy though I am, I have been entrusted by His Majesty; for this I tender my especial thanks to him.

Moreover, as Lady Layard, too, has merited the approbation of the whole world by the maternal affection and solicitude which she has shown towards the wounded and helpless among our fellow-countrymen during the war, and seeing that the people of Syria share this general feeling of gratitude, I take, therefore, the favourable opportunity presented by this interview for conveying my respectful thanks to her on behalf of the public, and at the same time I drink to the health of the Queen of England.

Inclosure 3 in No. 31.

Budget de Syrie.

Revenus.	L. T.	L. T.	Dépenses.	L. T.
Les revenus du vilayet sont de	..	500,000	Gendarmerie, zaptiés, et gardiens de prisons	90,000
A déduire un cinquième perçu en caimé et complétement annulé	100,000		Taxes des moutons expédiées directement à Constantinople	50,000
Ce qui reste des arriérés cinque ninée ..	50,000		Revenus des tapous et timbres, expédiés directement à Constantinople	60,000
		150,000	Dépenses urgentes des wakouls, mosquées et autres saints-lieux payées d'après les Firmans et ordres ..	30,000
Revenus nets		350,000	Frais du régiment des Dragons	15,000
Déficit annuel		145,000	Dépenses des postes, télégraphes, et prisons, en dehors des revenus	15,000
			Pensions des officiers en retraite, des veuves, blessés, reliés, &c.	40,000
			Pèlerinage de la Mecque	90,000
			Dépenses, y compris traitement des employés et les frais de Bureaux	55,000
			Havalé et frais du 5e Corps d'Armée	50,000
		495,000		495,000
			En plus on envoie un havalé pour le Liban, montant à .	50,000
			Idem, la Banque Impériale Ottomane	25,000
			Et tout cela sans compter les différentes dettes du vilayet, qui s'élèvent à	750,000

Inclosure 4 in No. 31.

List of Maronite Clergy in Mount Lebanon.

MGR. BOULOS MASSAD, Patriarche d'Antioche, réside toujours au Liban, l'été à Bdiman, couvent situé dans les hautes montagnes de Batroun, l'hiver au couvent de Bkerki, dans le Kesrawan.

Mgr. Youssouf Dibs, Evêque de Beyrouth.
Mgr. Youssouf Jahyah, Evêque de Chypre (réside au Liban, District du Méten).
Mgr. Boutros Bistani, Evêque de Tyr et Sidon (réside à Beït Eddin).
Mgr. Hanna-el-Hage, Eveque de Baalbeek (réside au Liban dans le Kesrawan).
Mgr. Nametallah Dahdah, Evêque de Damas (réside à Antoura, dans le Liban).
Mgr. Youssouf Freïter, Eveque de Lattaquié (réside dans le Batroun, au Liban).
Mgr. Stéphan ———, Evêque de Tripoli (réside au Batroun, Liban).
Mgr. Youssouf Marid, Vicaire Spirituel du Patriarche (demeure avec lui).
Mgr. Boutros Massad, Vicaire Temporel du Patriarche (demeure avec lui).
Il y a, en outre, un Evêque Maronite à Alep.

Le nombre des Maronites dans le Liban (mâles entre 16 et 60 ans) est environ 60,000.

Ordre Monastique Libanais (Bélédié) : un Supérieur-Général, le Père Martinot, et environ 800 moines.

Ordre Monastique Aleppin : un Supérieur-Général, et environ 300 moines.

Le clergé séculier (prêtres des villages n'appartenant pas un ordre monastique) compte plusieurs milliers d'individus. Aucune statistique n'en a été faite, car, par suite d'un abus qui s'est transformé en droit coutumier, aucun d'eux ne paye l'impôt de capitation.

Grecs Catholiques.

Evêque de Beyrouth : aujourd'hui sans titulaire.
Evêque de Sidon : Mgr. Théodosios Kiumyi.
Evêque de Zahlé : Mgr. Malatos.
Ces trois Evêques résident au Liban, où ils ont juridiction.
Un ordre monastique Grec Catholique, le nombre des moines est inconnu—quelques centaines.
Grecs Catholiques du Liban, mâles, environ 17,000.

Grecs Orthodoxes.

Evêque de Beyrouth : Mgr. Gabriel.
Evêque de Tripoli : Mgr. Théodosios.
Tous deux résident une partie de l'année au Liban, où ils ont juridiction.
Un ordre monastique—quelques centaines de moines.
Grecs Orthodoxes du Liban, mâles, environ 22,000.

Inclosure 5 in No. 31.

Address presented to Sir A. H. Layard by the Druse College, on the road to Bieteldin, September 18, 1879.

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

DES que notre bon et digne Caïmacam nous a annoncé votre honorable passage dans nos régions, nous, vos très-humbles serviteurs et élèves du Collége Druse Davidi, nous avons accouru, pleins de joie, à votre rencontre pour vous saluer.

L'enthousiasme qui illumine nos jeunes fronts ; la joie pure et expansive qui éclate sur nos visages ; les transports d'allégresse qui brillent dans nos yeux disent assez le bonheur que nous éprouvons, de présenter nos sentiments de respect et de reconnaissance à son Excellence Sir Henry Layard, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, de cette nation si grande, et par le rang qu'elle occupe dans le monde et par l'influence civilisatrice qu'elle exerce sur l'univers.

Que doivent être grands nos sentiments d'amour et de gratitude pour l'Angleterre, amie fidèle de notre glorieux et bienfaiteur Souverain et Padichah Sa Majesté le Sultan Abd-El-Hamid qui, voulant l'amélioration et la prospérité du Liban, nous a choisi pour Gouverneur-Général son Excellence Rustum Pacha. Personne n'ignore qu'à son honorable arrivée l'équité a brillé ; la tyrannie et l'oppression se sont dissipées et la vérité, ainsi que la justice, a triomphé au-delà de nos vœux. Aussi lui devons-nous, à cet ami fidèle de la Grande Bretagne, notre reconnaissance et notre amour.

Pour nous aussi, nous sommes et serons toujours les fidèles admirateurs et les dévoués enfants de l'Angleterre, de notre mère par adoption, de cette seconde patrie à laquelle nous sommes attachés par les liens d'une éternelle reconnaissance.

Honneur donc à cette noble Angleterre, à cette terre fertile en grands cœurs et en généreux dévouement.

Je ne puis qu'admirer avec étonnement
Ce Trône d'une femme et son Gouvernement,
Cette auguste Princesse, ô puissante Angleterre,
Qui règne en vrai Monarque et sur mer et sur terre,
Porte, on ne le peut mieux, son nom Victoria,
Et ce nom glorieux jamais ne périra.

Vive l'Angleterre ! Vive la Reine ! Vive son Excellence Sir Henry Layard, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople !

Inclosure 6 in No. 31.

Address to Sir A. H. Layard from Inhabitants of Samos.

(Translation.) *Samos, September 26, 1879.*
Excellency,

THE Representatives of the people of Samos having been informed of your auspicious arrival in our country have hastened from the various districts of the island to thank your Excellency for the honour conferred upon them by your visit.

They approach you to express the gratitude of the people, whom they have the honour to represent, for the powerful protection which they have always received from Great Britain.

Your Excellency is not ignorant that for some time past the Senate, despising the rights of the people of Samos, have brought them to a state of distress, which is calculated to provoke disturbances.

The people addressed their complaints in legal form, and His Highness the Prince, whose just and legal conduct has called forth the sympathies of the people, listened to their entreaties and prevented deplorable occurrences.

While discharging an important duty, we once more express our gratitude to your Excellency for the protection which your Representative here, M. Dionysius L. Mark, has never ceased to lavish upon our country for the protection of the rights and furtherance of the prosperity of the place.

We pray your Excellency to continue to protect us with your favour, and to honour with your sympathies the Prince whom the wishes of the people of Samos have called amongst us.

(Signed) The Representatives of the People.

Inclosure 7 in No. 31.

Address to Sir A. H. Layard from the Municipality of Scio.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence Sir Henry Layard, K.C.B., Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, Impératrice des Indes, &c., &c., &c.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

C'EST au nom du cercle Municipal de la ville de Chio, dont j'ai l'honneur d'être le Maire, que je me présente aujourd'hui en corps pour féliciter votre Excellence de son heureuse arrivée à notre île.

La joie que nous ressentons tous à l'honneur de votre visite est d'autant plus vive qu'en la personne de votre Excellence nous saluons un savant renommé et un Diplomate distingué, digne représentant de la magnanime et puissante Angleterre, amie sincère et alliée de notre Gouvernement.

Que votre Excellence daigne me permettre de profiter de cette occasion pour constater la grande reconnaissance dont tous les habitants de cette île sont pénétrés envers Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Souverain, qui, dans sa haute solicitude pour le bien-être de ces îles, a bien voulu permettre que Chio devint le siége gouvernemental de l'Archipel. Sa position géographique et l'activité de ses habitants justifient le choix de notre gracieux Souverain.

Nous nous en rendrons dignes en offrant notre concours à toutes les entreprises de l'administration, à commencer par la restauration de notre port, l'établissement d'entrepôts, et la construction des routes; ces améliorations projetées sont en bonne voie d'exécution, grâce à l'administration sage et éclairée qui nous régit aujourd'hui, grâce surtout aux réformes accordées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et graduellement exécutées par les autorités supérieures de notre vilayet.

L'arrivée de votre Excellence ayant lieu à une époque d'activité et de progrès semblera un présage de bonne augure pour notre patrie, et la mémoire de son aimable visite restera ineffaçable dans l'esprit de la population Chiote, qui, par mon intermédiaire, prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer ses hommages respectueux, ainsi que l'assurance de l'admiration qu'elle professe pour la grande et noble nation Anglaise.

Chio, le 9 Octobre, 1879.

Inclosure 8 in No. 31.

Newspaper Extract.

Smyrna, October 13, 1879.

SIR HENRY LAYARD'S TOUR.—Sir Henry Layard and party returned from Ephesus at 4·30 P.M. on Saturday, and after receiving the visit of British residents here left at 6 P.M. of the same day on board Her Majesty's ship "Antelope." A curious incident of the journey from Ephesus was that an ex-brigand, Tzirpanoglou—who only a fortnight ago was still the terror of the Caza of Scalanova, and who had since given himself up to the Smyrna police authorities, on condition that a full pardon for past misdeeds would be granted him, and that he should be commissioned to capture the brigands infesting the province,—profited of the police escort accompanying Sir Henry to come to town. The reason of his undertaking the journey was that while, a few days before, engaged on his new duties, he got information respecting the whereabouts of a brigand, and was going to attempt his seizure, when the Scalanova chief of police prevented him, informing him at the same time that the zeibeck brigand had already sent in his submission. The following day, however, Tzirpanoglou heard that the brigand had escaped, after having,

as it was rumoured, bribed the Scalanova chief of police with 200 medjidiés. Thereupon, he resolved upon coming to lay his grievances before the Vali in person, and to give him to understand that as long as the Scalanova police authorities had a right to interfere in his work of brigand clearing, for private ends of their own, any effort on his part to carry his task through would be useless, and he would rather give up. It is said that Sir Henry when informed of the presence of the famous ex-brigand asked to see him, and if Tzirpanoglou had only communicated to his Majesty's Ambassador the reason of his coming to Smyrna, Sir Henry would have heard what is only an every-day tale here, of the corruption existing among the officials in the interior of the province. I must add that Tzirpanoglou had an audience with the Pasha yesterday, and on making an *exposé* of his complaints received full powers to deal with brigandage in his own way, both in the Cazas of Scalanova and Thyra. If since I last wrote I did not report further on brigandage it was from no lack of matter, but merely for fear of tiring your readers by repeatedly recounting every-day acts of outrage. It is true that a few of the worst characters have been killed, but the evil is still existing and in full swing.

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 28, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 712.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 28, 1879, 1·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Eldridge, dated 27th:—

"With reference to my telegram of the 25th, I have received a letter from Midhat, wholly declining my proposal. His Highness appears to be strongly biassed against the Druses, and in absence of guarantee I do not consider myself justified in modifying my conditions. Situations is grave; troops continually move into Hauran; Druses prepare for resistance."

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 715.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Eldridge, dated to-day:—

"I am very sorry that Midhat Pasha persists in his attack upon the Druses. If blood is shed it may afford his enemies excuse for bringing about his recall, and I may not be able to help him as I have hitherto done.

"What is the origin and cause of expedition against the Druses? Ahmed Eyoub Pasha is putting the blame upon Midhat Pasha. Warn him if you can, and urge him again, from me, to endeavour to settle matters.

"I give this advice entirely in his own interest."

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 30, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 717.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 29, 1879.

THE newspapers having stated that orders had been given to the English fleet to proceed to Turkish waters, Sultan has sent Munir Bey to ask me for explanations, and to request that I would immediately ask Her Majesty's Government to countermand it, as he would consider this step on the part of England as an occupation of his territory, which there was nothing to justify.

His Majesty says that if I do not hear from you by Friday morning that the fleet will not be sent, he will be compelled to adopt such measures as he may consider necessary to meet this act of hostility on the part of England; he means by this an insinuation that he will appeal to Russia.

I have replied that, on my representing to you, some months ago, that he had promised to introduce the reforms we required into Asia Minor, and to name Baker Pasha to a high

command in Armenia, orders had been sent to the fleet not to proceed to Besika Bay, and that, as that promise had not been fulfilled, I could not again interfere; and that he had been warned by you of the consequences if Mahmoud Nedim returned to power. Under these circumstances I could only telegraph to you what he had represented to me, without holding any hope that Her Majesty's Government would reverse their decision. I suggested that if he desired any communication to you it had better be through Musurus Pasha.

I understand the Sultan is very angry, and very much frightened. To Sandison, whom I sent to the Palace to give explanations, he replied that in signing the Cyprus Convention he did so in the conviction that his sovereign rights would be respected, but that as England had now decided to impose upon him the execution of reforms and the appointment of Baker Pasha by coercive measures, he should certainly seek the means of defending his Empire.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 10 A.M.)

(No. 718.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1879.

I VENTURE again to say that I think it very desirable that the fleet should not come to Besika in the first instance. I will explain my reasons by messenger. The Sultan has again sent to beg me most earnestly to beseech you to countermand the order to the fleet, as he attaches the greatest importance to its not appearing in Turkish waters. He promises that he will come to a satisfactory understanding with us upon the question of reform if his request be complied with, and he has sent Munir Bey to ask me which are those upon which we insist. I replied that we expected the loyal execution, without further delay, of those promised in Safvet Pasha's note. Sultan is evidently much alarmed, and the Council of Advice and Council of State [*sic*] not to push him too far. I should be very glad if you would let me know at once what I am to say officially with regard to the fleet, as the matter has caused a great sensation here, and I am without instructions on the subject.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 31, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 720.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1879, 1·10 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Jago, dated yesterday:—

"The conflict between the Druses and military occurred on Tuesday with slight loss on both sides. Hostilities, however, not generally commenced; reinforcements have been asked for."

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1315. Secret.)
Foreign Office, October 31, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch of this day's date, I have to state to your Excellency that the immediate reason which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, has made the return to the Ægean Sea of the British fleet desirable has not been the attitude of the Sultan.

It was thought expedient, in view of the known Russian proclivities of the present Government and the disordered state of things at Constantinople, that English naval force should be within call.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 37 A.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2, 9 A.M.)

(No. 722.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 1, 1879, 11 P.M.

I WOULD venture to request Her Majesty's Government very earnestly to delay the departure of the fleet from Malta for fifteen or twenty days. Impression made upon the Sultan is such that I have hopes of obtaining concessions which we might not obtain if his fears were so much excited as to lead him to take steps which might have the effect of causing us most serious embarrassment.

If within the time I have mentioned nothing is done to satisfy Her Majesty's Government, the fleet would come to Vourla or Besika Bay. I have communicated substance of last paragraph of your telegram No. 271 to the Sultan.

No. 37 B.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 2, 8·30 P.M.)

(No. 723.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 2, 1879, 11·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Jago, dated 31st ultimo:—

"Hostilities suspended. Attempts being made to arrange matters by myself. [Friendly] support requested and given to authorities."

No. 38.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 244. Confidential.)

Tehran, October 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 82, Confidential, of the 28th August, I have the honour to report that, at an interview which I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, I referred to the difficulty experienced in checking the depredations of the Kurdish population on both sides of the border, and strongly urged upon his Highness the expediency of entering into an arrangement by which the Persian Government and the Porte should formally agree to assist each other in keeping the Kurdish frontier tribes under control, and preventing them from eluding punishment by taking refuge across the border when pursued by the authorities and troops of either country.

At previous conversations, when this subject was introduced, his Highness had confined his remarks to a general acquiescence in the opinion I expressed, that Persia should act in concert with Turkey for the punishment and repression of Kurdish outrages and excesses on the Turco-Persian frontier. On the present occasion I found that his language was more definite, and that he was willing and desirous to sign a formal Convention, stipulating that no asylum should be granted on either side of the frontier to these tribes when pursued by their own authorities; and that, in the event of their crossing the border to escape punishment, they should be surrendered to the Government whose subjects they were.

The Turkish Ambassador, his Highness said, had recently proposed to him to sign a Convention for the mutual surrender of all criminals and offenders, but that the Persian Government had declined to make the stipulation applicable to any other than the nomad Kurdish frontier tribes; and his Excellency had referred to his Government for authority to conclude a formal agreement to that effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 39.

Consul Abbott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 18.)

Tabreez, October 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, respecting the rebellion raised by Sheikh Obeidoollah, in Kurdistan, against the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Consul Abbott to Mr. R. Thomson.

Tabreez, September 25, 1879.

Sir,

WITH regard to the rebellion raised by Sheikh Obeidoollah in Kurdistan against the Turkish Government, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Sheikh is reported to have made considerable purchases of fire-arms at Khoi, through the medium of an agent at Oroomiah, and appears, from all accounts, to be well supplied with good rifles. His son has been lately in the district of Amadeah, and the castle of that name fell into the hands of the rebels, but has, I understand, been since recovered by the Turks.

The Turkish redifs, poorly armed, are said to have withdrawn into the town of Dizza. There have been several engagements between their Kurdish allies and the insurrectionary Kurds, in which the latter were defeated.

The rebels have done great havoc in the Plain of Gawar, taking possession of all the Nestorian villages at the north end of the plain, and the inhabitants have fled

from their homes, much of their property falling into the hands of the Kurds. Large numbers of their cattle are now at Tergewer, within the Persian border, whither the Sheikh recently sent a person to endeavour to collect sheep and oxen thus driven across the frontier, declaring that he would not permit this wholesale plundering of the Sultan's unoffending Rayahs, and that his hostility was directed solely against the Turkish Government. The last report is that Sheikh Obeidoollah is suing for peace.

I have received the above intelligence from a reliable source in a communication from Oroomiah, dated the 17th instant.

In connection with this subject it is worthy of notice that, during the Russo-Turkish war the Porte furnished the Kurdish tribes with upwards of 20,000 rifles, with which they proceeded to the "djehad," and on the proclamation of peace, demanded the restitution of those arms.

The Representative of the Porte at Tehran, on learning that some of these rifles had been disposed of at Makou and elsewhere on the Persian frontier, instructed the Turkish Consul-General at Tabreez to communicate with the Persian authorities on the subject, and take measures for their recovery, but I believe that very few of them have been forthcoming, and it is not improbable that Sheikh Obeidoollah and his adherents are now using against the Turkish Government many of these same weapons, originally provided for its defence.

The question whether the mountain Nestorians might be eventually induced to side with the rebels, if the Kurdish insurrection gained ground, for the purpose of throwing off the Turkish yoke, is doubtless deserving of consideration. But everything points to an opposite conclusion.

The Nestorians are not a disloyal people. Their history is written in letters of blood, but it was under the banner of the Cross that they died in defending their religion and homes against Kurdish invaders by whom they have been repeatedly, with their wives and children, put to the sword. They have never raised the standard of revolt against their legitimate Rulers, who have altogether failed to afford them adequate protection, but would have more to gain by continuing under Turkish rule than siding with their bitterest enemies, from whom they could expect nothing but treachery in the end. A hardy and courageous race, willing and able to fight under emergency, they differ, in every respect, from their effeminate and pusillanimous co-religionists of the Oroomiah Plain, who exist by a system of organized mendicancy, and whose standard of morals leaves much to be desired.

Reports, I am aware, have been circulated that the Nestorian Patriarch and his flock are disaffected towards the Turkish Government, but I believe them to be devoid of foundation. They would probably be found to emanate from a quarter whose agents, hostile to reform and good government in Turkey, by creating ill-feeling between the Christians and their Rulers, would thus leave the former to the mercy of the Kurds.

Amongst the various Christian denominations in the East, it would be difficult to discover one more deserving of our sympathies than this small band of Nestorians, who, in their mountain homes, hemmed in by hostile tribes, are patiently waiting for the dawning of a brighter day.

The present moment would appear an opportune one for the Turkish Government to acquire a stronger hold over their affections by affording them better protection than they have hitherto done against Kurdish incursions and a share of those reforms which they are endeavouring to introduce into other parts of the Empire, whilst there can be little doubt that, under British auspices, they might become a happy and prosperous community, as well as useful auxiliaries to the Porte in dealing with the disaffected tribes in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 40.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, October 13, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a letter recently addressed to me by his Eminence Archbishop Nercès, the Patriarch of the Armenians of Turkey, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Monsignor Nercès to Major Trotter.

M. le Consul, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Septembre*, 1879.

LES autorités ecclésiastiques d'Erzéroum m'ayant écrit au sujet des nobles efforts que vous ne cessez de faire pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes d'Arménie, je m'empresse de vous en remercier bien sincèrement.

En mettant sous les yeux du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique le tableau fidèle des maux dont souffrent les Arméniens malgré l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin et la Convention du 4 Juin, vous avez rendu, Monsieur, un service si éclatant à la cause de la justice et de la vérité que votre nom restera gravé dans le cœur de tout vrai Arménien.

Vos efforts auront pour résultat, je n'en doute nullement, Monsieur, d'implantar les principes d'une bonne administration dans ce malheureux pays d'Arménie, qui est exposé depuis des siècles à l'anarchie la plus absolue et à la plus cruelle des persécutions.

En appelant sur vous les bénédictions du Très-Haut et en vous recommandant la cause des Arméniens qui vous serait toujours reconnaissants, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) ARCHEVÊQUE NERCÈS,
Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Major Trotter to Monsignor Nercès.

Éminence, *Erzéroum, le* 11 *Octobre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre agréable lettre du $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre me remerciant pour les efforts que j'ai fait pour l'amélioration du sort des populations Chrétiennes d'Arménie.

Je suis heureux de trouver que mes efforts ont été appréciés par votre éminence et d'apercevoir qu'ils n'ont pas été sans résultat en ce que au moins le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a été mis bien au courant avec l'état actuel qui existe.

Quoiqu'il est vrai que nous n'avons pas encore à peine vu même le commencement des réformes promises dans l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, il est toujours à espérer que Sa Majesté le Sultan, s'il serait informé de l'état pénible et critique des habitants de ces provinces limitrophes de la Turquie, prendra les mesures nécessaires pour assurer l'administration de la justice et la sécurité de la vie et des biens dont le manque fait tant souffrir non-seulement les sujets Chrétiens de Sa Majesté mais aussi, quoique en moins degré, les sujets Musulmans.

Sa Majesté a déjà envoyé dans ces pays deux Commissaires Impériaux de bonne volonté; mais sans des pleins pouvoirs et sans l'appui le plus énergique de Sa Majesté lui-même, je crains que les Commissaires n'auront pas le pouvoir de faire aucune considérable impression sur l'état actuel des choses.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 41.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 56. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE recently received two despatches from Vice-Consul Boyajian at Diarbekir. The account he gives of the state of affairs is not hopeful. It appears doubtful whether money will be forthcoming to pay the new gendarmerie, owing to the Minister of Finance constantly drawing bills on the already impoverished local Treasury. Several zaptiehs who had been discharged from the force for bad character and other reasons have been re-enrolled since the departure of the First Imperial Commissioner.

The newly enrolled mixed police force, 170 strong, is said to be discontented with the treatment they are receiving from the officials, and are likely to resign.

The exiled Kurdish Chiefs are still at Aleppo, and, it appears, intrigues are already on foot to secure their return to their own country. If this be allowed, the state of the Christians throughout the vilayet will be far worse than before. These Chiefs were exiled as a political measure, and it was, of course, impossible that all the ordinary legal forms should be gone through. It is the regular adherence to legal forms that has hitherto prevented the bringing to justice of the Keghi Begs in this vilayet.

In a former despatch I mentioned that four very objectionable characters, who had been nominated to high judicial functions, had not had their appointments confirmed by the Porte.

Since the departure of the First Commissioner these men have, at the instance of the Wali Izzet Pasha, been reappointed and confirmed.

Saïd Pasha (an able, energetic, honest man) has been transferred from the Governorship of Sort to that of Mardin, and Salih Pasha, a former Governor of Kharput, and a man with a bad reputation, has been appointed Governor (Mutessarif) of Sort.

Criminal proceedings against these ex-officials appear to have been discontinued, and in one notable case, that of Khoorshid Bey, the ex-Mutessarif of Mardin, a bold and unscrupulous criminal, escapes scot free.

With such an example before them, other officials will be encouraged to follow his evil ways. When, however, as is generally believed to be the case, the Pasha at the head of the Government, Izzet Pasha, is himself corrupt, it can hardly be expected that his subordinates should be models of purity. I understand that both of the Imperial Commissioners for the Diarbekir Vilayet are of opinion that their work would be greatly facilitated if the present Wali were removed. Your Lordship is aware, from my despatches of last winter from Diarbekir, that I expressed myself unable to see a good future for the vilayet while Izzet Pasha remained at the helm, and nothing has since occurred to make me change my opinion.

N.B.—I beg that this last paragraph may not be permitted to appear in any Blue Book. Some depreciatory remarks I made a few months ago on Dervish Pasha were transferred from the Blue Book to the "Times," and from the "Times" to nearly the whole of the vernacular journals of Constantinople. Should I happen to meet Dervish Pasha officially or privately, my position is thereby rendered a somewhat unpleasant one.

I can obtain no authentic news by way of Diarbekir about the Kurdish rebellion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—Abeddin Pasha, the First Imperial Commissioner, has left Kharput to take up his duties as Wali of Sivas. Manas Effendi, recently at Mardin, has left Diarbekir to take up the work at Kharput.

No. 42.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 58. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton, dated Van, the 3rd October, from which it seems that, although for the moment the Kurdish insurrection is apparently suppressed, yet general lawlessness and misgovernment seem to be on the increase, and there would appear to be little hope of permanent improvement as long as the present Wali remains in power.

A copy of a despatch from the Wali of Van to the Sublime Porte was received here yesterday, in which the Wali details the correspondence that has passed between himself and the Sheikh Ubeydullah. It appears that the final demand of the latter is for a salary of 20,000 piastres a-month. The Wali has recommended that this be granted.

I understand that the settlement of the Kurdish question has now been placed in the hands of Samih Pasha, whose arrival at Van, however, has not yet been announced here.

A telegram was received here three days ago (eight days *en route*) from the Wali, taking credit to himself that he had completely settled the Kurdish question prior to the arrival of Samih Pasha.

I have received this day two telegrams from Captain Clayton, one dated the 6th October (twelve days *en route*), stating that the Kurds are doing much harm in Hekkiari, and that Armenians are emigrating thence to Russia; also that he had heard that Sheikh Ubeydullah was again collecting the Kurds.

The second telegram was dated the 14th October (four days *en route*), and is almost wholly unintelligible, but I gather from it that there has been a fight, in which the Kurds have been defeated, but the latter receive reinforcements continually. This strangely contradicts the possessed telegram of the Wali Pasha.

Yusuf Pasha informed me yesterday that the Porte, at the instance of the English Embassy, was constantly urging the Imperial Commissioners to leave for Van and Marash, and that, in consequence, they propose leaving for Van in about three weeks' time. A letter of instructions is expected from the Porte by the next mail, which will probably contain final orders. As the Commissioners have done little or no good here, I do not see that their presence at Van will mend matters there, while their departure from this will probably render abortive any little good that they might perhaps yet be the means of accomplishing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, October 3, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 20th September I telegraphed to you to the following effect:—"Pasha strongly dissuades me from starting at present. I therefore delay some days. Preparations are making to restrain Kurds."

Being unable to go at present to visit the Nestorians, I started on the 22nd September with Mr. Scott, the American missionary, in his boat, to visit the district of Arjesh, on the north-west shore of the Lake of Van, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of corn for the winter, and of examining into the condition of that district, and I returned here yesterday.

Whilst in Arjesh I learned that the Kurds of that part had shown an increased activity in robbery and evil practices since the commencement of the troubles in Hakkiari. This is partly due, no doubt, to the excitement that the rising in Hakkiari has produced among all the Kurdish tribes, but it may also be partly caused by the present scarcity and high price of corn, leading them to rob to make provision for the winter.

A new Kaïmakam arrived in Arjesh whilst I was there, having been transferred from El Jivas, the adjoining Kaïmakamlik to the south. He brought with him a very good character from his former district, but he told me that he was unable to do as

much as he could wish to restrain the Kurds, on account of want of support from his superiors.

Several Kurdish Aghas came to visit me whilst I was with the Kaïmakam, and I exhorted them to obey his commands, and use their influence in the cause of good order, saying that I would visit them in their villages on some future occasion. They promised acquiescence.

Since my return here I have learned that Sheikh Ubeydullah has promised complete submission to the will of the Sultan. He has, moreover, led his men against another Kurdish tribe that was in insurrection and severely handled them, but as he did this entirely without orders, the Pasha has requested him to refrain from such action without authority.

In the meanwhile, however, robbery and outrage on the part of the Kurds generally on this side are on the increase, and the promised measures of repression appear to be entirely abortive. It is most distressing to listen to the piteous appeals for assistance and protection that come to me from all sides. No less than six deputations have been with me to-day, mostly from places between this and Bashkala and Julamerk, complaining of their sufferings, and saying that if some alleviation does not quickly come they must leave their homes and wander forth, as even now they have been so plundered as to have barely enough remaining to keep them alive.

I have also received a letter from the Nestorian Bishops, Priests, and Chiefs, and another from Mar Shimoun himself, setting forth the miseries they are suffering during the present strife between the Turks and the Kurds, and entreating me to come and examine into their condition and assist them.

There appears to be scarcely any attempt on the part of the authorities here to restrain the Kurds from their misdeeds. The measures taken seem entirely directed to preventing open insurrection against the Turkish authority, and no care is taken to protect the people from robbery and outrage. The villagers complain that the presence of troops is a curse rather than a blessing, as they are of no use as a protection, and live on the peasants without payment.

I regret to say that I am every day more confirmed in my opinion that any hope of improvement at the hands of the present Vali is vain. He is indolent and weak, and entirely in the hands of the Medjliss, which is utterly corrupt, and protects criminals for the sake of the bribes which they give. A strong and honest man is needed here, and I believe that such a man would very quickly improve matters, for, as I said in my former despatch, I am sure that it is only the certainty of impunity which has brought about the present state of anarchy.

As it is, the officials say that they have no power to do more, and catch at any excuse for inaction, such as those afforded by the expected coming first of the Reform Commissioners, and now of Samih Pasha. One or two notorious Kurdish Chiefs have been summoned, and are now in the city as guests of some of the principal Turks, but I am not aware of what course the Government is going to pursue with regard to them.

A few days ago a special messenger, bringing despatches and goods from Erivan to the Russian Vice-Consul here, was robbed of everything between Bayazid and this place.

I am most anxious to go to Hakkiari in order to visit Mar Shimoun, and examine into the condition of affairs personally in that district, and also, if possible, to see Sheikh Ubeydullah. Therefore, after awaiting the arrival here of Samih Pasha, who is expected in two or three days, I intend to make a strenuous endeavour to proceed in that direction.

I have received your letter desiring me to inform all whom it may concern, that you, as the Consul for Kurdistan, are the proper medium for all communications intended for Her Majesty's Government, and that the Consul-General for Anatolia has no political or civil jurisdiction in Armenia and Kurdistan, and I will carry out your instructions.

I will keep you informed by telegraph of my movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 43.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 59. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 18. 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a despatch of the 11th October from Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, being a Report on the state of the Alashgerd and Bayazid districts recently visited by him.

I have done what lies in my power to induce the local authorities to take the necessary measures for providing grain for sowing at those places where it is most required, and the Vali has already counter-ordered the despatch of 2,000 somars of grain which were to have been sent to Erzeroum from Pasin, one of the suffering districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Erzeroum, October 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your orders, I have visited those portions of the districts of Passin, Alashgerd, Kara-Kilissa, Diadin, and Bayazid that are in the neighbourhood of the caravan road from Erzeroum to Tabreez.

In 1877 five times during the short space of seven months did an army traverse these districts, taking from the inhabitants supplies of all kinds without payment, and in many cases without giving receipts. Once in the same year, and again in 1878, whole villages, both Christian and Turkish, were compelled to emigrate on account of the fearful ravages committed by the Kurdish irregular cavalry, and in these flights, which were made in company with the armies, great losses were sustained. To make way for the retreating troops the village carts were often pushed off the road and overturned, women and children being trampled on and killed, while those who were unable to advance were overtaken by the Kurds and plundered of everything they possessed. A failure of the harvest has this year completed the ruin of the people.

The inhabitants of these districts are agriculturist and shepherds. Prior to the war they appear to have been in circumstances sufficiently affluent to enable them to pay the legal taxes and other demands which from time to time were made upon their resources without feeling the burden acutely. Now, however, things are different; for while there is a general inability to comply with legal claims, every act of oppression is felt with a sharpness never before experienced, and, therefore, never before estimated at its true value.

The appointment of English Consuls and Vice-Consuls throughout the country has produced in the minds of the Armenian portion of the population a belief that these appointments are but preliminary steps on the part of the English Government which will be followed by others of a still more energetic character, producing eventually such an amelioration of its condition as will secure to it equal rights with other Ottoman subjects, put an end to the oppression which it suffers at present at the hands of officials of all kinds, save it from the continual depredations of the Kurds, and insure to it a just and equable system of taxation. The present attitude of the Christian population of these districts is therefore one of expectancy. It awaits with impatience and anxiety the next move on the part of the English Government; it catches eagerly at every sign of improvement that may be attributed to its influence. In point of fact, for the present it looks to England, and to England alone, for that assistance out of present difficulties which it has been unable as yet to obtain at the hands of any other Power.

While assuring the population of the sympathy of England and of her desire to obtain for all classes, creeds, and races in this country a good and just government, I have pointed out the difficulties attending the undertaking, and the absolute necessity of patience.

This doctrine is not, however, popular, and unless some beneficial measures of an unmistakable character are forthcoming shortly, I doubt if the patience of the people will endure much longer.

Where so many serious causes for complaints exist, it would be impossible to give

pre-eminence to any of the numerous questions which came under my notice, for the evils are all great, and of equal importance; yet the failure of this year's harvest and the inability to buy grain for the moment occupies the attention of the people beyond all else. I have already addressed you on this subject, and I hope that, stirred by your appeal, the Government may have already taken some steps to avert the famine which is undoubtedly threatening the districts I have visited. At the same time, the period now left for sowing is so short, and the want of energy on the part of officials so great, as to leave considerable doubt whether sufficient can be done in the time to avert the impending catastrophe. Should any such befall the country, Yusuf Pasha, the late Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Bayazid, will be greatly to blame, since the Kaïmakams of the districts repeatedly brought the matter to his notice without being able to effect any result.

At the moment of distress has appeared the usual autumnal demand for the payment of the taxes. In most of the villages, especially where emigration took place, these taxes are two years in arrear. It is not easy to ascertain to what extent the authorities are now demanding them.

The Kaïmakam of the Alashgerd district assured me that the sheep tax only was being asked for, and I have reason to believe that no other tax has been collected in that Kaïmakamlik. On the other hand, in the Kara-Kilissa district taxes have been demanded for 1877, although declared by the people as paid; considerable pressure, too, has been put upon the inhabitants, and several people have been imprisoned. There is a very general objection to the payment of arrears of taxes, because of the large sums that the Ottoman Government owes the inhabitants for supplies received during the war. In many villages receipts are held for these supplies, but where emigration took place they have generally been lost. Sometimes they were never given. In one case only, viz., that of the Turkish village of Dairebbe, in the Kara-Kilissa district, could I find that any abatement of taxes had been made on account of the supplies furnished during the campaign; but I learnt that in some other villages, where influence with the Government existed, the same course had been pursued.

It may be remarked here that where emigration has taken place the villages are, in nearly all cases, smaller than before that emigration, owing to the non-return of the inhabitants; nevertheless, I am of opinion that, in many cases, the villages are rated on the old books. In addition to this taxation, which, in their present circumstances, is more than the people can at all afford to pay, there is imposed upon them the heavy burden of lodging and feeding the soldiery and zaptiehs. Even if this were carried out in the systematic manner adopted at the present day by modern armies in the field, the impost would be, at such a time and on people so impoverished, a scandalous proceeding, but executed as it is at the discretion of the soldiery and zaptiehs themselves, it has taken the form of open plundering.

Sometimes, it is true, proper receipts are given, but as often as not they are neglected or unsigned, and even when so tendered they are occasionally made out for a less sum than the articles tendered are worth. Remonstrances on the part of the villagers are useless, and only entail on them corporal punishment inflicted on the spot.

Although it is not my intention to enter into details, I may perhaps be permitted to give an illustration on this point. A zaptieh, one of the escort accompanying me, took from the headman of the village of Zeidikan 10 okes (25 lbs.) of barley without giving any receipt. The headman begged me not to remonstrate with the zaptieh, as any complaint would bring punishment upon him after I had left.

But it is not only the soldiers and zaptiehs who prey upon the slender resources of this wretched population.

Officials of all classes travelling on the road take, without paying, whatever they may require. Carts and horses are impressed to carry baggage; forage and food must be supplied for horses and their owners.

So systematic and habitual has this requisitioning become, that in some villages, as at Deli-Baba, a certain quantity of wheat is laid aside annually by the community, while, in others, horses are bought and maintained to meet the demand.

The plea put forward by soldiers and zaptiehs in extenuation of their conduct is the length of time that has elapsed since they last received pay (in the case of the former from two to four years, in that of the latter ten months). With reference to officials, the short and uncertain tenure of their appointments has much to do with it. The constant dread of dismissal, badly paid, and, in most cases, with families to provide for, they make what they can while they have the opportunity.

But there is yet another class of people from whom the inhabitants are suffering terribly. Day after day bands of marauding Kurds, principally from the Djellali and Zilan tribes, scour the country, carrying off horses, cattle, and sheep, robbing travellers, and even taking their lives if the plunder is of sufficient value. Sometimes the robbery takes another form. Several Kurdish families take possession of and occupy houses belonging to Christian families who have not as yet returned to them, living upon the other inhabitants.

At Keshishkioi, in the Alashgerd district, I found fifteen Kurdish families so living.

These marauders are the remains of the irregular cavalry employed by the Ottoman Government during the last war, and are still armed with the rifles then supplied to them.

The officials, whether soldiers or others, appear to take but little trouble in the matter. Now and then, perhaps, they will assist in the capture of a murderer, but he usually escapes before he is brought to justice, and then no further attempt is made to discover his whereabouts.

For the prevention of these depredations I look upon the soldiery to be next to useless.

The new Mutessarif of Bayazid, whom I met on the way to his post, seems to be a man fully capable, if properly backed up, of dealing with this question, and if he will only employ the energetic measures he appears to contemplate he will stamp out this scourge for the time that he may be left in office.

I had an interview with Atesh, the Chief of the Djellali tribe, and taxed him with a share of the depredations. He laid the blame on the other half of the Djellali, who, residing within the limits of Persia, make raids across the frontier.

The statement is true so far that at this moment the other half of the tribe are giving considerable trouble on the frontier, but it is not applicable to depredations committed at such a distance from it.

I warned him that such evil doings would not be allowed to continue, and told him that I greatly feared some heavy punishment would befall the tribe ere long if it did not desist from such lawlessness.

On asking him why he did not settle down into villages like other folk, he replied that they would be only too glad to do so if some land were apportioned to them.

I believe he meant what he said, but as I have since learnt that his influence over the tribe is but small, I do not place much reliance on the statement, while, from other information I have received, I am led to the belief that any attempt to civilize the Kurds in these districts will be attended with great difficulties.

At Bayazid I received a deputation from some Christians who had lately returned to that town. They handed me a copy of the petition which has already been addressed to the Turkish Commission of Reforms, a translation of which I now append to this Report, together with a list of those murdered in the massacre at Bayazid in 1877, and the names of the murderers, some of whom are, it appears, occupying posts in the government of the district.

The Christian inhabitants are anxious to have a Vice-Consul appointed to Bayazid, and you may see at the head of the list of reforms asked for by the Bishop of Utch-Kilissa (which I also append, together with an abstract of the total amounts claimed by the villages in these districts for supplies given during the war) a repetition of this request.

For my part I am convinced that to insure reforms being carried out in their entirety it will be necessary to appoint an European official not only in each Sandjak, but also in every Kaïmakamlik, where he can exercise surveillance over the local governments. He should be able to speak to a Kaïmakam on equal terms, and also to attend the Courts of Justice during the trials of prisoners.

It is true that the Christian population are represented in the Town Councils, but from what I have been able to learn the Christian members have very little voice in the Administration.

In the above Report I have endeavoured, without entering into details, to represent the general state of the population in these districts, and I cannot imagine anything much worse.

The people returned to their homes impoverished by the losses sustained during the war, and a failure of the harvest now leaves them without wheat. Taxes are now demanded for the time they have been away. In the meantime they are daily plundered ruthlessly by soldiers, zaptiehs, officials, and Kurds, and can obtain neither substantial compensation nor even the less solid satisfaction of seeing the offenders

punished. Owed large sums by the Government, they cannot but feel that their present poverty is greatly due to the non-payment of the debt. Instead, however, of being repaid, more is asked from them.

I will not waste your time, or my own, in offering any suggestions for the improvement of this condition of things. You probably are well aware what is necessary; if not the evils themselves suggest the remedies. But I am certain that no reforms can be executed without the closest supervision by Europeans. Unless trustworthy men can be left behind us in the districts, we shall never be able even to arrive at a just conclusion as to the actual state of things in the country, and we may be sure that some new form of oppression will accompany any reform that may be attempted.

I cannot conclude this Report without mentioning the valuable assistance I have received from Mr. Cuming. His thorough knowledge of the language and customs of the people, coupled with his tact and shrewdness, enables him to obtain information which ordinarily would be withheld from a stranger. It is men of his stamp that are required in the country for the purpose I have mentioned above.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Petition addressed to the Commissioners.

(Translation.) *Bayazid, September* 10, 1879.

THE Armenian community of Bayazid, under the Ottoman Government, has always kept its characteristic faithfulness, notwithstanding the great and numerous calamities which have lately befallen it, and lastly, the mortal blow of 1877.

We have the honour to state that we will always remain the same faithful subjects of the Rulers of Turkey, but hasten to call your attention to the following events, which happened during 1877 to the Armenians of Bayazid:

In 1877, before the Turco-Russian war, the population of Bayazid was composed of 200 Christian houses and 400 or 500 Moslem houses.

The Armenians were well-to-do and fairly wealthy, and the general state of things seemed to imply progress. But, unluckily, the last war allowed our Moslem neighbours to draw us into that miserable position in which we are at this moment. War was declared, and the Russian army was not far from the frontier when the Armenians and the Turks held a council, when it was reciprocally agreed that in case of need they would protect each other.

A few days after the Russians came down into our town from the top of the hill called Tchingilian.

According to our Convention all Moslems were favoured by our hospitality, and they, together with their property, were confided to our charge. They passed some days in Christian houses, during which they were fed. Becoming acquainted with the peaceful intentions of the enemy, they returned to their own homes and worked as usual. But, in the meantime, the Moslems secretly nourished in their hearts base perfidy against the Armenians, who had protected them so kindly.

The chief instigators of this treachery were Sherif Effendi, Ghahuedji Zadé, Mahmoud Effendi Telli Zadé, Yusuf Agha, Dédizadé Apas Agha, and Baghizadé Ahmed Agha.

When the Russian army went towards Erzeroum, these men secretly sent messengers with despatches to Sheikh Djélaleddin, Chief of the soldiers called Djélo, and excited him to revenge the *soi-disant* evil-doings of the Armenians.

When the Russian army passed Alashgerd, and was on the point of reaching the village of Zeidikan, the Turkish spies in frequent communication with Sheikh Djélaleddin informed him that the time for revenge had arrived.

On the 5th June, 1877, they killed the cattle; on the 6th a quantity of Kurds and soldiers called Djélo, conducted by some Moslems from Bayazid, came towards the city and placed itself on the mountain.

The few Russian soldiers who were in the place not being able to make any resistance retired into the castle during the afternoon.

Thus the end awaited by the Moslems was consummated. According to the Convention we had been engaged to stay in their houses; they had even sent their children and servants to carry in our furniture, &c.

But their dwellings were no refuge for the Armenians, but rather a prison, for as

soon as we were established in them the soldiers and Djélos entered into the city, conducted as before by the Turks, howling, crying even during the night, seeking Fellahs (that is our honoured name)—the chief cry being, "We will revenge ourselves on you."

The Turks who had kept the Christians in their houses began, with the intention of protecting them, to conduct them from one room to another (from the room to the kitchen, &c.), and tired them very much. The Armenians then foresaw the scourge which sooner or later would fall on their heads. The Turks began to menace them, saying that the time for their blood had arrived.

After keeping them three or four days they have decided to drive out of the doors the Christians. The Turks then possessed themselves of the furniture and riches of the Armenians.

Amongst the Moslems, Bashchaoosh Ali Zadé Khodéda, not acquainted with the decision of his compatriots merely to drive out the Christians, began to kill the Armenians who were kept in his house. They were Reshdoony Khatchadoor, with his elder son; Haroutioon, the shoemaker, with his elder son; Khatchadoor, the mason, with his brother and two sons; Idépan and Arakel and Nalpant Ohan, whose elbows were tied by the aforesaid Bashchaoosh himself.

These Christians were then exposed to the sword of the Turk, who killed them without pity, crying, "Bismillah." He hung the liver and the lungs of one of them on the top of a stick as a sign of "Kinoorlook." The bones of these unhappy men have been since taken out of the cesspool of this man and buried afterwards in the cemetery.

But these Christians were fortunate to be killed in this way, since for the others a more dreadful spectacle was prepared.

Soldiers and Djélos, with revenge in their hearts, went among the Christians and put to the sword everybody in their way. Every one endeavoured to save himself, and all were separated, the wife from the husband, the child from the mother, &c. Men were thrown on the ground, and at times were exposed to the shameless barbarity of the Kurds and Djélos. Some of the men and women, who had been forcibly stripped by the soldiers, were carried before them. Women's breasts were cut off and thrown down. No one was spared from this universal scourge. A great part of the people were captured and brought to Sheikh Djélaleddin; the other part escaped to the mountains and valleys, and was compelled by thirst to give urine to the children instead of water. Women despaired of finding their husbands, and no one knew whether any Christians were left alive.

Some of them found after many days and even months their wives, who had been during that time kept by the Kurds, or found only their dead bodies or their children's. They were also found in the river wounded by sword, &c.

After these dreadful and terrible acts our Moslem neighbours took away our gold, pearls, liras, and rich clothes, &c., leaving only for the Djélos some things of no value. They also burnt the houses and shops.

The Armenians, leaving 800 dead and wounded on the ground, left their country and emigrated to Megoo, in Persia, where they passed a very pitiful life.

Regarding the return of the Armenians to their native country, a promise was made by Ismail Pasha, Commandant of the Ottoman army in Asia Minor, that their houses would be returned back to them; the second attack of the Russians then took place.

After about nine months the Russians returned back again. During this time it had been warmly proposed to us that we should emigrate into a foreign land, and sixty carriages were sent for this purpose, but we preferred to remain as the subjects of the Ottoman Government, and continued to dwell in Bayazid.

After the departure of the Russians during two months we were again tortured, and never since have been free from attacks by the Kurds.

We have not yet seen any good resulting from the present authority. Many Christians were killed, both rich and poor. Lately a Commission for the purpose of restoring to the Armenians the goods that had been taken from them was established by the local authority, but we could not see any result from it.

The Moslems who killed and tortured the Armenians, and who had emigrated with all they had robbed to Van, Moush, and Ardjesh, are now favoured by the Ottoman Government.

Our petition about our state, and our prayers to get bread for our hungry and poor people, have been received with indifference, and have remained without any reply.

These instigators have not only entered again Bayazid, but they have also been appointed to new places, and they even compose the council of our country at this moment.

If this state of things continues a general extirpation of our race is not far from us.

We feel that your Majesty's attention is drawn on us, and we put faith in the aid of your visitors (Commissioners).

We consequently beg your Majesty to draw a pitiful glance on our state and ameliorate our poor and miserable position.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

List of Persons Murdered at Bayazid and Names of Murderers.

Number of Armenians killed in the massacre at Bayazid in 1877, 800.

Damage caused by pillage, &c., 11,117,361 piastres.

The names of the principal instigators are here appended:—

Sherif Effendi and his family.—The chief instigator of the evil-doings. Several Armenian families were kept in his house, and some were killed by him. Is at this moment Erhar Memouroo ( ) in Dijadin and Khamoor.

Ghahvédjizadé, Yusuf, Ahmed, Suléiman, and Osman.—Instigators. Stole furniture confided to their charge. Osman is at this moment Mal Mudir ( ) at Kara-Kilissa.

Dédizadé Apas and his family.—Stole furniture confided to him and committed other crimes.

Ghahvéjizadé Hassan Effendi and family.—A leader in the pillages and murders. At this moment Chief Writer in Djinayet ( ) at Bayazid.

Sememi Abdullah, F. Kender and brothers.—Ditto. At this moment Eshary Muharir and Mubashir.

Mollah Mamesh's son, Mollah Yusuf, and family.—Pillager and murderer.

Sons of Mollah Abdul and families.—Murderers and robbers. At this moment gendarmes at Bayazid and in the provinces.

Dershi Modé's sons.—Pillagers of Armenian houses and shops, disguised under the Djélo costumes. At this moment gendarmes and chavooshes at Kara-Kilissa.

Doshoyan Ismail.—Adviser and cause of murder, and pillager. At this moment Kiatib (writer) of gendarmes at Bayazid.

Jaroy Ahmer.—Of the same character with the last pillager and evil-doer. At this moment Coldjibashi ( ) in the custom-house of Bayazid.

Jaroy Ibey's sons, Suléiman and Ismail.—Ditto. Officials at Kara-Kilissa.

Paghoo Ahmed's sons, Emin and Aziz, and Madé's sons.—Spies, malefactors, conductors of Djélos, and murderers. Emin is Director of the Treasury at Alashgerd.

Hasson Hané's son.—Murderer and incendiary.

Sheikh Kasim's sons.—Murderers and pillagers. Actually merchants at Alashgerd of what they have robbed.

Fahro's son, Hassan.—Incendiary. At this moment Coldji ( ) at Dijadin.

Ason, Etmekdji Abdal's son.—Murderer and pillager.

Dervish Boton and family.—Pillagers and murderers.

Seloy Maen (?) and family.—Conductors of Djélos.

Ibrahim Effendi, son of Mahmoud Agha Moos.—Accomplice of Kurds in every bad act. At this moment writer in the Beledié (Municipality) of Bayazid.

Selim of Gagé.—Pillager of houses and church. At this moment merchant at Bayazid.

Ghalil Yusuf's son.—Accomplice of the Djélo soldiers.

Naghib and brothers.—At this moment Eshar Coldji ( ) at Moosoon.

Hadji Feyzael's sons.—Accomplices of Djélos and spies.

Abdul Kérim.—Accomplice and conductor of Djélos. At this moment

Ismail of Kianhan.—Accomplice of the others. Actually writer of Djinayet ( ) at Dijadin.

Bashchnoosh Alizadé Khodéda and brother Baba.—In the house of these Moslems twelve Armenians and their sons were killed. The younger brother is actually Onbashi ( ) of the gendarmes at Bayazid.

Hadji Dhari Alou.—Accomplice of those above-said murderers.

Rom Mhé's sons (?).—Ditto.

Hadji Mahmoud's sons.—Ditto.

Suléiman of Nakar-Abuss.—Ditto, and robber. Sub-Inspector of Customs at Alashgerd.

Lufti Effendi and sons.—Spies.

Toptchoo Abdullah and family.—Exciter of the Djélos and pillager.

Mhen, son of Zootté.—With the aid of some persons he pillaged the shops and burnt them down.

Sons of Dedo and Eliaz.—Conductors and accomplices of Djélos.

Ali, of Kesho, and sons.—Robbers and malefactors.

Doorsoon and Telli Yusuf.—

Inclosure 4 in No. 43.

A List of the damages caused to the people of Alashgerd, Pakrevant, and Sourp-Ohanes (St. John) Monasteries by pillage, emigration, and supplies given to the Imperial Army during the war of 1877.

Name of Place.	Amount of Damage.		List of Killed.
	Piastres.	Piastres.	
1. Bayazid	10,007,361	..	810
2. Koroon	3,534,040	..	154
For supplies	..	30,000	
3. Meyremane	633,820	..	39
For supplies	..	10,000	
4. Sarihegh	1,262,645	..	30
For supplies	..	15,000	
5. Moosoon	2,045,949	..	67
For supplies	..	75,000	
6. Ardzap	3,767,899	..	115
For supplies	..	68,000	
7. Sourp-Ohanes Monasterics, Utch-Kilissa	1,628,840	..	38
8. Utch-Kilissa village	1,385,890	..	75
For supplies	..	5,000	
9. Shooshan	2,014,445	..	29
For supplies	..	19,000	
10. Ghorapazar	3,432,670	..	28
For supplies	..	23,000	
11. Ghoolcombaedjah	2,865,520	..	16
For supplies	..	55,000	
12. Peti (village)	786,660	..	40
For supplies	..	20,000	
13. Ghozi	1,267,705	..	72
For supplies	..	72,000	
14. Mangasar	1,419,151	..	27
For supplies	..	27,140	
15. Yontchaly	1,357,707	..	71
For supplies	..	83,940	
16. Kup-Ghran	4,165,915	..	12
For supplies	..	83,200	
Damage caused by the Kurdish soldiers	84,700	..	73
17. Tchiro	1,045,180	..	
For supplies	..	90,000	
18. Kara-Kilissa	3,581,841	..	15
For supplies	..	159,000	
Damage caused to the Bitlis merchants of the same village	378,492	..	45
19. Vagharshgerd (or Alashgerd) and Toprac-Kaleh	283,483	300,000	46
For supplies	1,453,040	..	16
20. Chelgan	..	114,792	17
For supplies	6,465,851	..	5
21. Hamat	..	288,600	37
For supplies	1,300,000	..	16
22. Hashkhaly	..	76,500	
For supplies	100,000	..	
23. Hachikofor	..	8,360	
For supplies	99,400	..	
24. Chamerloo	2,258,130	..	
25. Khir	..	25,500	
For supplies	749,880	..	
26. Mazré	..	84,200	
For supplies	..	..	

Name of Place.	Amount of Damage.		List of Killed.
	Piastres.	Piastres.	
27. Yeritzoo, near Kara-Kilissa	2,256,130	..	18
For supplies	..	66,320	
26. Ikintapé, near Alashgerd	1,870,595	..	87
For supplies	..	68,800	
29. Molla-Suleïman	780,740	..	19
For supplies	..	159,000	
30. Khoshian	293,725	..	16
For supplies	..	133,315	
31. Zetgan (Zeidikan)	1,410,947	..	25
For supplies	..	154,982	
32. Khatchli	1,960,455	..	23
For supplies	..	18,000	
33. Ghayapee	1,831,493	..	20
For supplies	..	30,000	
34. Yeritzoo, village of Alashgerd	1,811,937	..	24
For supplies	..	65,550	
35. Khasdoor	2,665,520	..	35
For supplies	..	165,425	
35. Patnotz	965,782	..	38
For supplies	..	72,315	
37. Kezelkayi	541,561	..	26
For supplies	..	45,518	
38. Sofian	38,880	..	12
For supplies	..	3,300	
Losses	77,071,309		
Losses for supplies	..	2,790,985	
Total killed	..	..	2,238

No. 44.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 18. Secret.)
Sivas, Anatolia, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch marked Secret, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
Amasia, Anatolia, October 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the substance of a telegram forwarded to your Excellency on the 23rd September last relative to a reprimand passed upon Abeddin Pasha by the Turkish Government.

On the 11th September I received, whilst at Aziziah, a telegram from Abeddin Pasha, informing me that he had sent thirteen prisoners, under sentence of banishment, to Constantinople viâ Sivas and Samsun.

On my return to Sivas I was informed that the arrival of the prisoners in that town had created a profound impression, especially on the members of the "ring," whose notorious intrigues have brought one of the finest provinces in Anatolia to the verge of anarchy and ruin.

The prisoners were visited by most of the local notables, and I am informed that a telegram, appealing against the decision of Abeddin Pasha, was soon afterwards forwarded to the Bash-Vakil (Prime Minister). This telegram is believed to have been prepared at the instigation of, and in concert with, Mehemet Ali and his friends. The result was that Abeddin Pasha was reprimanded by Aarifi Pasha in an open telegram, which, though addressed to Kharput, was soon known to every one in Sivas. The success of the intrigue has since been regarded as a first triumph in the struggle between the Sivas "ring" and the new Governor-General, and it has necessarily increased the difficulties which the latter has to contend with.

I understand that Mehemet Ali and his party are prepared to push their opposition to the Vali to the utmost; they are perfectly unscrupulous in what they do, and unless Abeddin Pasha is vigorously supported at Constantinople, he will be unable to break their power.

The state of the vilayet upon which I hope to address your Excellency by next mail is, in every sense, deplorable, and unless order is introduced soon with a firm hand by a man capable of acting with energy and decision, I fear serious disturbances may be expected.

I trust that your Excellency will kindly use your great influence at the Porte in support of Abeddin Pasha; but I must ask that this despatch may be considered "Secret," as my informants are afraid that the subject of their conversations with me may become known to the Turkish officials at Sivas. I believe the information supplied to me on this occasion to be correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Substance of a Telegram forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard, September 23, 1879.

IT is generally known here that the Turkish Government has severely reprimanded Abeddin Pasha for the exile of the Kurdish Beys. The reprimand followed on a telegram from the Kurd prisoners, on arrival at Sivas, to the Ottoman Porte, which I believe was composed in concert with local notables. The success of the intrigue has had a very bad effect.

Can you support the Pasha?

No. 45.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 19.)
Sivas, Anatolia, October 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, October 7, 1879.

Sir,

HAVING recently returned from a visit to some of the Kaïmakamliks in the Sivas Vilayet, I beg to offer a few remarks to your Excellency on the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in the districts which I passed through.

My route took me through the Circassian settlement of Azazieh, the Afshá'ar country beyond the Anti-Taurus Mountains, the high plateau of the Uzun-Yaila, and the mountainous region lying between Sivas and Amasia.

I regret to say that I can only describe the state of the country, which is fairly typical of that of the whole vilayet, as one of impending anarchy. Security to life and property there is none, except in the larger towns; no man starting on a journey can be certain that he will arrive at his destination without being molested; even parties of five or six men are not safe. Nearly every village I passed had its tale of robbery with or without violence. Trade and commerce exist only in name; and a feeling of almost hopeless despair seems to have settled down on the great mass of the population. Moslem and Christian alike suffer, though there is no doubt the latter

do so in a greater degree, and have less chance of obtaining the scanty justice occasionally administered by the corrupt Courts.

In some villages almost every horse has been stolen; at Tocat, men having good horses are afraid to ride them, lest they should be marked and stolen during the night; in the Amasia district, once well known for its breed of horses, the best have been carried off. At Shahr the Afsha'ars have taken possession of and are tilling the Armenian lands. At one village men can only go out to cut firewood in armed parties of three or four; at some villages the people could not drive their flocks to pasture, but were obliged to keep them in the neighbouring corn-fields; in others they were even afraid to venture into the more distant vineyards for the vintage; and in two cases recently in the Amasia Mutessariflik, Christian villages have been pillaged by Circassians. On some roads highway robberies are of almost daily occurrence. The day before my arrival at Tocat a caravan was waylaid in the defiles of the Chamly Bel Mountains, the men bound, and their animals driven off; and a few days before I reached Amasia a large caravan was plundered not far from that town.

No one can wonder that, under these circumstances, trade is paralyzed, and that the unvarying answer to questions on this subject is, "What is the use of taking goods to market when we are robbed of our proceeds on the way home?"

Except in two cases the robberies do not appear to be committed by organized robber bands, but by Afsha'ars, Kurds, Lazis, Circassians, and men disguised as Circassians, who rove about the country in armed parties of two or three, and take every opportunity of robbing defenceless men.

The two exceptions alluded to are those of Mir Ali and Yahya Bey; the former, who is of Persian origin, came to the vilayet last year with sixty followers, and signalized his arrival by a quarrel with some villagers, in which one Christian was killed and others wounded. His character was so well known that the Armenian Bishop at once wrote to the Patriarch at Constantinople, requesting that he might not be allowed to remain in the vilayet. The Porte, I am informed, promised that he should be removed; but he has been settled down not far from Kangal, it is said, under a feigned name. Only five of these men have their families with them; they have hitherto lived at free quarters in the villages, and supported themselves by plundering. Yahya Bey is a Kurd Chief, who has long been the terror and scourge of the Tocat district.

The causes of the universal disorder are not far to seek. The first is the insufficiency and inefficiency of the zaptieh force. In one Kaïmakamlik, as large as some English counties, there are only three, in another only four; and these men are, for the most part, armed with flint-lock muskets of such antiquated pattern that they would raise a smile if seen in a museum of ancient arms. No one can expect these zaptiehs, many of whom have to support a family and keep a horse on 140 piastres (about 24*s.*) a-month, several months in arrear, to arrest men armed with breech-loaders and revolvers, knowing as they do that if they were killed their families would be utterly neglected by the Turkish Government.

It is only natural that a zaptieh, when ordered to arrest a robber, should go away for a few days, live comfortably in a village, and on his return say that he could not find him. The zaptiehs, too, complain that, when they do arrest a man and bring him before the Court, they are at once asked for the two witnesses required by law, and that, if they are not provided with them, the prisoner, though every one knows he is guilty, is set free. Even should a man be convicted and sent to prison he is too often released the next morning, if his friends are sufficiently wealthy to open the prison-gates and close the eyes of the jailors.

Several Governors of districts, when speaking to me, have deplored their inability to preserve order with such slender means, and have expressed a hope that something would shortly be done to improve the condition of the zaptieh force. At Amasia, for instance, the Mutessarif, whilst paying me a visit on the evening of the 1st instant, received a telegram that the Christian village of Suleiman-keui had been pillaged by Circassians. He turned to me and said, "What can I do with the force I have at Amasia, five zaptiehs? I cannot leave the town unprotected."

I could not but acknowledge the difficulty of his position; but on hearing that there was a detachment of cavalry, under a Lieutenant, in Amasia, suggested that it should at once be sent to the district, about 30 miles distant. The Mutessarif replied that he had no authority over the military force, and that the telegraph-wire to Sivas being broken he could not refer to Musa Pasha, the General Officer commanding in the vilayet. I expressed, however, a hope that he would consult with the officer commanding the troops in Amasia on the subject, and heard afterwards that the cavalry left the town the same night. The result I have not yet heard.

It must not be forgotten that, at present, Government officials carry out their duties, as far as regards the suppression of crime, at some personal risk; for, with their wretchedly-armed police, they are completely at the mercy of any reckless man who carries a revolver. Several cases have occurred which show that members of the Medjliss and other officials are really exposed to this danger.

A second cause is the immunity from punishment which is enjoyed by men who commit crime. This arises from the inefficiency of the zaptieh force, the general corruption of the Courts and of the prison officials, and from an organized system of protection, which has its centre at Sivas. By this system a man who commits a crime in the cazas' sub-districts can always, if he has money, carry his case to the Appeal Courts at Sivas, and there obtain protection. A night or two in prison, or a few pounds spent in bribery or in purchasing protection, is now all that a robber, foolish enough to be caught, has to fear.

A third cause is the almost criminal action of the Turkish Government in sending thousands of refugees, a large proportion of them armed with modern weapons, to the country without making proper provision for their support or maintenance. It is not to be supposed that an armed Laz or Circassian will die of hunger when, by threatening to use his weapons, he can obtain food and nourishment for himself and family. In one Circassian village I found refugees who had been living on the hospitality of the villagers, themselves extremely poor, for fourteen months, never having during that time received assistance from Government. In other Moslem villages I saw refugees from Kars living under the same conditions.

The cost of supporting the refugees has fallen entirely upon the Moslem and old Circassian villages, and the villagers have done their best to supply the new-comers with food and shelter. I do not know of one instance in which Moslem refugees have been quartered upon a Christian village.

A fourth cause is the treatment of the refugees by the Refugee Commissioners. In my despatch of the 6th August, after having seen something of the arrangements made in the Konieh Vilayet by Ali Riza Bey, the Refugee Commissioner, I reported that the task of settling the refugees had been well accomplished. I cannot say the same for the work of the Sivas Commissioners, who would appear to have taken the opportunity of enriching themselves at the expense of the villagers, and even of the refugees. They extorted money from the villagers by threatening to plant colonies of refugees near them, and from the refugees by threatening to settle them down on lands incapable of cultivation.

I have been informed, on what I consider good authority, that the late Refugee Commissioner, himself receiving a large salary, obtained in this manner no less than £ T. 4,000, about 3,600*l.*, from the Amasia Mutessariflik alone.

The effect of this treatment was speedily felt; numbers of the unfortunate refugees, driven hither and thither, died miserably by the roadside, and a spirit of restlessness was created amongst the recently-arrived Lazis and Circassians which has not yet subsided, and which will need a strong hand to control.

Prompt and energetic action can alone save the vilayet from complete ruin. The time has passed for half measures; and I trust your Excellency will impress upon the Porte the serious nature of the consequences which may ensue from a continuance of the existing state of affairs, and the absolute necessity of giving Abeddin Pasha, who arrives to-morrow, cordial and loyal support in such steps as he may find it necessary to take for the preservation of law and order in the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, October 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Abeddin Pasha, the recently appointed Vali of Sivas, arrived on the 8th instant. His Excellency commenced work in the konak the same day, and he has already made several changes amongst the subordinate officials, which were much needed.

A Reform Commission, consisting of six members, three Moslem and three

Christian, has been formed, and the first meeting is to be held during the course of the present week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 46.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 911.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a telegram from Major Trotter requesting permission to go to Diarbekir, and inquiring whether I should wish Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to accompany the Imperial Commission. I have informed Major Trotter by telegraph that I approve of his going to Diarbekir and of Captain Clayton's accompanying the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *October 20, 1879, 7 P.M.*

YOUR No. 29 of the 3rd October has been received. Despatches Nos. 24 to 28 inclusive are missing. Please reply immediately by telegram to despatch No. 73 of 25th August. Imperial Commission will leave in a fortnight for Musch and Van. Kehgi business still unsettled. Do you approve my leaving for Diarbekir on my receiving answer to this telegram? Do you desire Vice-Consuls to accompany Commission? Commissioners have promised to treat them as they would me. Governor of Van reports insurrection subdued.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 914.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1879.*

I INCLOSE copy of a Report sent to me by the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch through his Secretary of cases of outrages upon Christians and of their ill-treatment by Mussulmans, principally Kurds, in Armenia and Kurdistan. I promised his Beatitude that I would lose no time in bringing the cases described to the notice of the Porte; and I have communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the greater part of the Report, accompanied by a note of which I also inclose a copy.

The Patriarch's Secretary informed me that very great dissatisfaction was felt by the Armenians with the conduct of the Russian authorities towards them in the territories recently ceded to Russia by Turkey. This has been confirmed to me from several quarters. The chief grounds of these complaints, according to the Patriarch, are that the Russian Government has closed the Armenian schools; that it wishes to extinguish the Armenian language and nationality; that it will not permit the Armenians to rebuild Ani, which they consider their ancient capital; that it has given over a church at Kars which belonged to the Gregorian Armenians to the Catholics; that it does not allow the Armenians who have passed from Turkey into Russian territory to acquire lands, &c. Some of these grievances have been brought to my notice by Major Trotter. It would appear that a large number of Armenians who have left Turkey, and are greatly dissatisfied with the manner in which they have been treated by Russia, are desirous of returning to their former homes. It can scarcely be believed that the Porte is so blind as not to take advantage of these feelings on the part of the Armenians, and that it does not exert itself to the utmost to put a stop to their cruel

treatment by the Kurds and the Turkish officials, of which the inclosed report give so many deplorable instances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Memorandum respecting State of Armenia, communicated to Sir A. H. Layard by the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch.

Khezan.—On écrit de Khezan, en date du 20 Avril, que l'oppression effrénée des Kurdes a forcé les Arméniens de la contrée à émigrer en masse. On ne compte plus aujourd'hui qu'une trentaine de villages Arméniens dans un district qui en comptait une centaine, et ses paysans Chrétiens sont si maltraités par les Kurdes qu'ils seront obligés d'avoir recours à l'émigration pour échapper à la rage de leurs fanatiques bourreaux.

Djabaghtchour.—On écrit de Djabaghtchour, en date du 27 Mai, que des bandits Kurdes infestent tout le pays qui s'étend entre Salou et Djabaghtchour.

Dans le village de Teherlig (district de Djabaghtchour) un Kurde, Miné Cheki Beg, administre des coups de massue à un Arménien nommé Khatche Douceny, qui tombe horriblement mutilé. Dans le même village les Kurdes assassinent un maçon Arménien nommé Ghazar.

Un Kurde féroce, Molla Djelil, a forcément converti à l'Islamisme quarante Arméniens dans le village de Fakhran (même district).

Dans le village de Tchan le Cheik Mahmoud a dévalisé l'Arménien Mampré, le grand-père de celui est mort de terreur.

Dans les environs de Palou les Kurdes ont assassiné le père du marchand Arménien Mampré.

Alashgerd.—On écrit d'Alashgherd, en date du 12 Juin, que les Arméniens de la contrée sont persécutés par les Turcs et les Kurdes. Le témoignage des Chétiens n'est pas admis devant les Tribunaux, malgré les dispositions de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin.

Diarbékir.—On écrit de Diarbékir, en date du 23 Juin, que deux gendarmes Turcs ont étranglé dans le village de Pedar un Arménien nommé Ozma Ohannès.

Dans ce même village le centurion Telisa a tué le Notable Arménien, Dahlo, pour lui voler son mulet.

Karim Bey, un Kurde du village de Khoût (district de Khezan), a assassiné l'Arménien Sisso, dans le village de Saronitz. Il a assassiné aussi l'Arménien Zozig, son voisin.

Malmoud, de Koulpig, a tué l'Arménien Kreker dans le village de Verin-Karassou.

Beeher, de Khoror, a tué l'Arménien Avedir Khanis, dans le village de Neran-Khacassou.

Ce même Beeher, et son complice, Mourad Agha, ont assassiné dans le village d'Ouranitz le prêtre Arménien, Parsegh, l'Arménien, Djagho et son fils.

Mousse Bey, de Feghgueroun, a tué l'Arménien, Thiros, dans le village de Koutzag (district d'Eroun).

Osman Bey, de Zeghgueroun, a assassiné l'Arménien, Hanoz, dans le village d'Avar.

Fidan Bey, de Rosdatar, a tué Hano, dans le village de Seymir.

Osman Bey, de Koumast, a assassiné les Arméniens, Bedros et Chagho, dans le village de Deerig.

Dans ce même village, Andi et Osman, de Stouregan, ont tué l'Arménien, Mourad.

Les villageois Musulmans de Nouyan ont assassiné l'Arménien, Poro, originaire de Déerig.

Le gendarme Aziz, de Nouyan, a tué la femme de l'Arménien, Novsep, originaire de Déerig, laquelle était enceinte.

Suleiman Sherghé a assassiné l'Arménien, Housep, dans le village de Tazharel.

Khalaf, de Yoush, a tué l'Arménien, Chamas, dans le village de Semklior.

Dans ce même village, Tavresh et Mahiné, de Salantz, ont assassiné l'Arménien, Golédja.

Kogal, de Hizmen, a tué l'Arménien, Khatchô, dans le village de Khantag.

Osman Bey, de Kovmaso, a assassiné les Arméniens, Astish, et Racho, dans le village de Madan.

Dans le village de Kof, l'Arménien, Kathal, et son frère, ont été tués par le même Bey.

Van.—On écrit de Van, en date du 5 Juillet, que les Arméniens de cette province sont persécutés sans relâche par les Chefs Musulmans.

Voici la liste des Turcs et des Kurdes qui les oppriment impunément :—

Khalifá Fehmi Abdul Bey, Cheki Bey, Suleiman Bey, et Suleiman Khan Mahmoud, dans le district de Mags.

Hâladj Rousdam Agha, et Suleiman Agha Pakh Van, dans le district de Gardjgau.

Les Cheiks Sabal Mouhammed, et Hamza, dans le district de Ghetzau.

Ghoulian Bey et ses parents, dans le district de Kavash

Le Cheik Mehmed, les Beys Mehmed, Nedjib, Bechid, et Halim ; Moukhtar Amar Ali et Amar Tabar, le Cheik Ahmed, et Muderis, dans le district d'Osdoor.

Mehmed Agha Gravantzi, Ali Osman, et Ahmed, dans le district de Chadakh.

Les Cheiks Abatoullah Alaieddin, Mehmed Sadyk Nouri, Mehmed Emin, et Hamid, dans le district d'Aghpag.

Phamour Agha Terbaz, Mehmed Takour, Mehmed Mihan, Tchalang, Ayak Kan, et Moustafa, dans le district de Khochab.

Terboz Agha, et le Cheik de Gourandashd, dans le district de Nordouz.

Hadji Moustafa, Hadji Ali Resgo, Hadji Merge, Mehmed Derbé Hussein, et Mahmoud Haideranli, dans le district de Pergri.

Hahman Effendi, Auzar Moustafa Hassai, Hamji Hadji Hanze, Salim Bey, Mehmed Ali Mehmed, et Mahmoud Adaman, dans le district d'Ardjesh. Les Beys Moustafa Ahmed, Ibrahim Duda Omer, et Youssouf Mahmoud, et Molla Mahmoud, dans le district d'Arteharaz.

Témour Oghlou, Djamoushtchou Oghlou, Topichou Oghlou, Moutcho Bey, Hafiz Oghlou, Hadji Moustafa, Hadji Ibrahim, Yétigh Oghlou, Hakki Effendi, Dilaver Oghlou, Hassan et Mehmed Hadji Rechid, Hadji Youssouf Rachid Adan et Baïram, et d'Ardamed, dans la ville de Van.

Unia.—On écrit d'Unia, en date du 12 Juillet, que les 3,000 émigrés Musulmans d'Adjara, qui ont quitté Batoum pour se fixer dans cette ville, commettent journellement toutes sortes d'atrocités.

Ces émigrés ont tué, le 10 Juillet, un négociant Arménien, nommé Thoros Thorossian.

Diarbékir.—On écrit de Diarbékir, en date du 20 Juillet, que les Commissaires Impériaux chargés d'exécuter dans cette province l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, ont appelé à d'importantes fonctions des notables Turcs dont la culpabilité saute aux yeux. Tels sont : Dabagh Zadé Suleiman, qui, après avoir perdu par ses abus les places qu'il occupait à Constantinople et a Palou, a été nommé Procureur-Général à Sioust ; Ibrahim Djezerele Zadé, nommé Procureur-Général à Mardin, qui vient d'être emprisonné pour ses méfaits ; Dervish Effendi, complice d'une bande de voleurs, qui a été nommé membre du Tribunal de Première Instance à Diarbékir ; Ibrahim Amasciali, nommé Premier Secrétaire du même Tribunal, qui s'est efforcé de justifier les actes de Zelfo, Chef de brigands ; Hussein Bey, qui, exilé à Djezire pour ses méfaits, a été nommé membre de la Cour de Cassation et du Conseil-Général à Diarbékir ; Ahmed Bey, connu par les actes de cruauté qu'il a commis à Hazzi, qui a été nommé Procureur-Général à Malatia ; Zulfikas Bey, agent des oppresseurs Kurdes, qui a été nommé membre de la Commission d'Enquête à Diarbékir ; Arif, autre agent des Kurdes, qui a été nommé membre de la Cour de Cassation à Diarbékir ; Mahmoud, fonctionnaire corrompu et complice des malfaiteurs Musulmans, qui a été nommé membre du Conseil d'Administration à Diarbékir ; et Mehmed, ex-Président du Tribunal de Commerce de la localité, qui parvint à faire fortune en peu de temps, et qui vient d'être nommé Vice-Président du Tribunal de Première Instance à Mardin.

Moush.—On écrit de Moush, en date du 28 Juillet, que le Cheik Kiamil d'Alú a assassiné un adolescent Arménien dans le village de Bournaz. Il a assassiné aussi dans le village de Gorandoug, l'Arménien, Harountioun Rchagoron, son frère et son fils unique.

Le Cheik Mourad, de Kenous, a tué l'Arménien, Harioutioun Thathasian, dans le village de Kherl.

Le nombre des Arméniens tués dans ce district depuis la signature du Traité de Berlin atteint le chiffre de cinquante-quatre personnes.

Un jeune Arménien a été mis en pièces par Moussa Bey Mirza, dans le village d'Arzoud.

A Tcharbaher les Turcs ont assassiné l'Arménien, Melkor, chargé de porter au Vali d'Erzéroum une lettre formulant des plaintes contre Ibrahim Saradj Oghlou, membre du Conseil d'Administration de Moush, qui s'était permis d'insulter grossièrement la religion Chrétienne dans une séance du Conseil. Or, il est avéré qu'Ibrahim a des amis dans les environs de Tcharbaher. Le cadavre de Melkor, à qui l'on avait enlevé la lettre dont il était porteur, était horriblement mutilé ; on lui avait écorché la tête, et coupé le nez et les oreilles, ainsi que les membres génitaux ; ceux-ci avaient été placés dans la bouche d'un malheureux Chrétien. Les autorités locales n'ont voulu rien faire pour découvrir les coupables.

Le berger Arménien, Tchato, fils d'Avo, et natif du village d'Engouziz, ayant eu une querelle avec son camarade, celui-ci s'adresse au Mudir Mahmoud, qui ordonne aux zaptiés de battre l'Arménien. Assommé de coups, Tchato meurt au bout de trois jours.

Les ânes du Turc Radji, fils de Gul Ahmed, ayant pénétré dans la vigne de l'Arménien Sino, celui-ci le prie de les retirer. Radji se met en colère ; il assomme de coups le Chrétien, qui meurt au bout de cinq jours.

Le soldat régulier, Emin Ismaïl, enlève au maire Arménien du village de Hegui une somme de 1,850 piastres et la vie.

Keghi.—Les Arméniens de Keghi ont à se plaindre des méfaits de Hadji Sadik Bey Horher, de son fils, Mourad, et de ses deux fils, Omer et Feïzou Uah.

Hadji Sadik Bey a aboli la liberté de conscience dans tous les villages où il exerce sa tyrannie. La vie, l'honneur, et les biens des paysans Arméniens sont exposés journellement aux caprices de Hadji Bey et ses clients.

Erzéroum.—On écrit d'Erzéroum que les Arméniens de Keghi, de Khenous, de Palva, de Baïbourt, et de Terdjan sont beaucoup plus opprimés par les autorités Turques que par les Kurdes eux-mêmes.

Lors de la dernière guerre les paysans Arméniens avaient fourni toutes sortes de provisions aux troupes Turques, et les autorités leur avaient délivré des reçus avec promesse de rabattre du total des impôts les sommes dues par le Gouvernement. Or, les autorités refusent aujourd'hui de prendre en considération ces quittances. Il a été avéré que l'incendie de Tchemeshgadzak est dû à l'initiative de soldats réguliers Turcs, qui en ont profité pour enlever aux Arméniens toutes sortes d'objets qu'ils ont vendus aux Kurdes.

Le Vali d'Erzéroum interdit aux Turcs de formuler devant les Commissaires des plaintes contre les abus des fonctionnaires locaux. Il a fait saisir, dans la mosquée principale de la ville, deux pétitions que les Turques étaient en train de signer pour les présenter aux Délégués de la Sublime Porte.

On écrit encore d'Erzéroum, en date du 18 Avril, que les Kurdes ont tué, dans le village de Hassan Beg, un Arménien, en lui enlevant sa femme.

Une trentaine d'Arméniens ont été tués par les Turcs et les Kurdes dans le district de Keghi.

Quant aux Arméniens tués dans le district de Terdjan, leur nombre s'élève à vingt-cinq personnes des deux sexes.

Les Musulmans sont armés partout, et le port des armes est partout interdit aux Chrétiens.

Kharpout.—On écrit de Kharpout, en date du 1er Septembre, que les Commissaires Impériaux ne veulent pas s'occuper de la question agraire, sous prétexte que ce travail exigerait beaucoup de temps ; la vérité est que la Sublime Porte ne leur a pas donné d'instructions à cet égard. Or, cette question est d'une importance vitale pour le district de Kharpout comme pour Palou, Tcharsandjik, Keghi, Eghil, Djabaghtchour, Ghendj, Sassoun, Khizan, Chadekh et les environs, où le sol est la propriété exclusive des Aghas Kurdes, que le laboureur Arménien (marabo) est tenu de servir avec sa famille, et les bêtes de somme. Le marabo travaille la terre, et il doit partager le fruit de son labeur avec l'Agha, ou propriétaire ; c'est lui qui doit payer l'impôt foncier et les "janés" (subsides au Gouvernement), aussi bien que tous les frais du village.

Sioust.—On écrit de Sioust, en date du 9 Septembre, que les Commissaires Impériaux n'ont pas exilé Hadji Abdoullah Effendi, Chervanli Osman Bey, Hussein Effendi, et leurs parents et adeptes, dont la présence à Sioust entravera toute tentative de réforme. A Ghavzan la tribu Kurde, des Alikianlis, exerce ses déprédations comme par le passé. Le sort des Arméniens est pire dans cette partie de l'Arménie.

Kharpout.—On écrit de Kharpout, en date du 15 Septembre, que les Commissaires Impériaux n'ont été d'aucune utilité pour ce district. Ils n'ont pas châtié les tyrans

de Palou, de Tcharsandjak et d'autres localités; ils ont aggravé la question agraire qui exigeait une solution immédiate; ils n'ont pas permis aux Arméniens de participer à l'administration d'une contrée peuplée d'Arméniens. Ils ont déclaré que la Sublime Porte leur avait donné des instructions trop limitées pour satisfaire aux besoins locaux.

Malatia.—On écrit de Malatia, en date du 27 Septembre, que le Chef Kurde Ian Oghlou Ibrahim est le fléau des villages Arméniens du district de Dirsim. A la tête de soixante Kurdes armés il a attaqué et dévalisé, dans la journée du 27 Septembre, le village de Mebudoux. Après avoir traversé l'Euphrate ces Kurdes menacent aujourd'hui les villages Chrétiens du district d'Aghin; un massacre serait imminent.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, October 24, 1879.

IT is with very great regret that Her Majesty's Ambassador considers it his duty to submit to the Porte the accompanying statement of acts of cruelty and of ill-treatment to which the Armenians in Armenia and Kurdistan have lately been subjected by Kurds and the local authorities.

Her Majesty's Ambassador leaves the Porte to imagine the painful effect that such a statement cannot fail to make upon Her Majesty's Government, to whom it has been his duty to send it, and upon public opinion in England when it is communicated to Parliament.

Notwithstanding the explicit engagement entered into by the Porte with Her Majesty's Government, the appointment by it of Commissions of Inquiry, and its constant assurances that effective measures should be taken to protect the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and to ensure to them just and equal Government, Her Majesty's Ambassador learns with the greatest concern from the reports which reach him from trustworthy sources, that outrages of the worst description are still constantly committed upon the Christians in Asia Minor, and that the authors of them, when Mussulman, are either visited with so light and inadequate a punishment that they are encouraged to commit fresh crimes upon the unfortunate Christians, or that they are not punished at all, because they are under the protection of persons of local influence.

Her Majesty's Ambassador earnestly hopes that the Porte will, before it is too late, take effective measures to put an end to this state of things, to afford due protection to the Christians, and to place them, as His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has solemnly pledged himself to do, on a perfect equality with his Mussulman subjects.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 916.)

Therapia, October 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I PAID my official visit yesterday to Said Pasha, the new Prime Minister. On congratulating him, as is customary, on his appointment to this high office by the Sultan, I added that I did so in the hope that he would use the influence that he was known to possess over His Majesty for the good of his country. I said that he had been called to power at a most critical moment. I could not conceal from him my conviction that unless the most earnest and energetic measures were speedily taken to put an end to the state of anarchy that now prevailed in all parts of the Empire, to carry out the reforms solemnly promised to Europe, and to secure to the Christian subjects of His Majesty good, just, and equal government, the Throne of His Majesty and even the Turkish Empire might be in danger. I warned him that Her Majesty's Government could not much longer tolerate the oppression and ill-treatment to which the Christian populations of Asiatic Turkey were exposed, in direct violation of the Convention entered into by Turkey with England, and of the most solemn engagements of the Porte. He had, no doubt, learnt from the Sultan that, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I had informed His Majesty that if Mahmoud Nedim

Pasha were named Grand Vizier, or appointed to any other important post in the Government, the policy of England with regard to Turkey must necessarily be changed. This was a very grave condition of affairs, and might lead to very serious consequences.

His Highness replied that he was fully aware of the critical state of the Empire, and that he had accepted the post of Prime Minister with very great reluctance, but that he had been so much pressed to do so by the Sultan that he could not refuse. He denied that he had as much influence over His Majesty as I appeared to think. His Majesty, he said, placed full confidence in no one. He was determined, however, to use such influence as he possessed to induce His Majesty to take the most energetic and vigorous measures to put an end to the state of things that I had described, and the truth of which he could not deny.

His Highness then entered into a long explanation of his policy, dwelling especially upon five questions, which, he said, required to be dealt with without loss of time, and were of the greatest importance:—

(1) The finances; (2) the reforms; (3) the Greek frontier; (4) the state of Armenia; and (5) that of Syria.

Upon all of these, he declared, he was ready to consult me, and to act upon my advice.

I answered that I had no personal feeling against him, or any other member of the Ministry. If they did their duty, and pursued a policy in conformity with the interests of the Empire and with the assurances so frequently and solemnly given through me to Her Majesty's Government, they would experience no opposition from me; but mere assurances would no longer satisfy either your Lordship or myself. I required proofs of the determination of the Ministry to put into execution, loyally and without delay, the promised reforms, and of their real desire to be guided by the advice of Her Majesty's Government. If I received such proofs, I would not fail to inform your Lordship, who would, I felt persuaded, support any Turkish Government, without reference to the men who formed it, in any earnest endeavours to improve the condition of the Empire, and to give good government to the Christians, as well as to the Mussulman and other subjects of the Sultan. I again earnestly pressed upon him the urgent importance of taking measures without delay for the protection of the Armenians; and I warned him, very seriously, of the inevitable result if this were not done, reminding him that your Lordship had hinted, through Mr. Malet, that although England was not disposed to permit Russia to annex further territory in Asia Minor, she could not oppose the demands of autonomy of the Armenians, if it were shown to be the only means by which they could obtain their just and legitimate rights, and save themselves from outrage and persecution. I told His Highness that if he desired to give a proof at once to your Lordship of the good intentions of the Porte, he could not do better than name Baker Pasha to a high command in Kurdistan, in pursuance of the promise that the Sultan had given me.

I then informed Said Pasha that I had learnt with great regret that Midhat Pasha had sent his resignation to the Sultan, and I expressed an earnest hope that it would not be accepted, as, in the present critical state of Syria, his recall might lead to serious consequences.

His Highness said that he had decided to advise His Majesty not to accept Midhat Pasha's resignation, and to retain him in his present post.

After leaving Said Pasha, I paid the customary visit to Sawas Pasha, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs, and held to him the same language with regard to the present critical state of affairs, and to the absolute necessity, if the Empire was to be saved, of putting loyally into execution, without delay, the reforms promised in Safvet Pasha's note of the 24th October of last year, of restoring order in the administration of the provinces, of putting an end to the anarchy which existed in them, and of taking effective measures for the protection of the Christians. His Excellency gave me the same assurances as Said Pasha had done of the intention of the new Ministry to be guided by the counsels of Her Majesty's Government, and to do all in their power to carry out the policy which I had recommended, and which, he was convinced, could alone save the Empire from ruin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 49.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 918.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1879.*

I SEND your Lordship, inclosed, an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Colonel Wilson, in which he gives an account of the new Governor-General of the Vilayet of Sivas, Abeddin Bey, which it may interest your Lordship to see. I have done my best to support Abeddin Bey, and shall continue to do so, as he appears to be really desirous of performing his duty in an energetic and impartial manner, and of securing justice and good government to the Christians. Unfortunately, when men like Midhat and Said Pashas, Abeddin and others of like character, wish to act vigorously and impartially, and to make no distinction between populations of different races and creeds, the evil influences existing at Constantinople are immediately used to thwart them, and to neutralize all that they may have done. As long as this state of things continues, and it will be no easy matter to put an end to it, there can be little hope of real and effective reforms being carried out in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Sivas, October 14, 1879.*

I HAD a long conversation with Abeddin Pasha last evening, and he wished me to thank you very much for your message, which I conveyed to him, and also for your kind interest in his behalf at the Porte. He told me that Osman Pasha and others wished to have the son of Hamdy Pasha appointed Vali of Sivas, but that your representations had turned the scale in his favour. He also told me that the fanatic old Turk party at Stamboul accused him of introducing reforms which injured Moslems and favoured Christians for the purpose of gaining the good opinion of the European Powers. Intrigues were constantly going on to thwart him, and to this he attributed the telegram sent to him relative to the Kurd prisoners. He seemed much annoyed at the way in which the telegram was sent in Turkish, so that every one along the line knew its contents. His reply was that he had been appointed Vali of Sivas and Reform Commissioner, and that if he were not allowed to act as he thought best he would resign. To this he has received no answer.

I have been most favourably impressed with Abeddin Pasha. He is very clever, and full of life and energy, with great command over men. If his career is not cut short he will rise very high, and I think he means to do so.

The well-known antipathy of the Turks to capital punishment renders banishment almost the only means of freeing the country of men whose crimes ought to bring them to the scaffold, and I hope no obstacle may be raised to prevent the use of this means of giving peace to the vilayet. Abeddin Pasha really wishes to introduce reforms and to govern well, and I hope your Excellency will support him against the intrigues of the retrograde party at the Porte.

He has already dismissed the Colonel and Major of zaptiehs, both useless men, changed the Beladizeh Reis, a creature of Mehemet Ali's, and placed a new Kaimakam in the Circassian Caza of Azijieh. He has also taken steps for the arrest of some of the most notorious robbers. It is very pleasant to me having a man in this wilderness who is devoted to classical literature, and able to talk on matters that interest educated men.

No. 50.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 919.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have addressed to the Porte communicating to it the Report from Captain Everett upon the state of the districts of Bayazid and Alashgerd, a copy of which will have been forwarded by Major Trotter to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Note Verbale.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has the honour to submit to the Sublime Porte, and to call to its most serious attention, the accompanying Report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van upon the state of the districts of Bayazid and Alashgerd. The account it gives of the sufferings of the Armenians, Christians, and of their ill-treatment by Turkish officials and by the Kurds is lamentable.

Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot believe that in its own interest as much as in that of humanity the Porte will permit the state of things described in this Report and in others which it has been his painful duty to communicate to it to continue.

Therapia, October 25, 1879.

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 921. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1879.*

THE Sultan invited me to dinner yesterday, evidently with the intention that I should meet Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, with whom I was not personally acquainted. His Majesty spoke to me very favourably of him, saying that he was a statesman of experience and energy, and devoted to His Majesty's person.

He was consequently the man best fitted, under present circumstances, to put into execution the reforms which His Majesty was earnestly desirous of seeing introduced without delay.

This morning Mahmoud Nedim Pasha called upon me. It would only weary your Lordship were I to relate, at any length, a conversation which lasted nearly four hours.

I will, therefore, merely give your Lordship the substance of it. I begged him not to enter into a justification of his policy when Grand Vizier, as it was useless to waste time in discussing what had passed, and moreover unnecessary, as I had communicated to your Lordship the explanations that he had given to Sir Richard Wood, with a view to their being repeated to me. We had now, I said, to consider the present state of affairs, and what could be done to avert the dangers which, in my opinion, threatened the Sultan's throne and the Empire, and which were indeed imminent. They arose from the neglect of the Porte to fulfil the solemn engagements into which it had entered with Europe, and especially with England, to introduce the reforms required for the just and equal government of the Christian subjects of His Majesty; from the anarchy and discontent which now everywhere existed on account of maladministration and the miscarriage of justice, from the evil influences which prevailed at Constantinople, and thwarted the attempts of honest functionaries to perform their duty; and from the lamentable condition into which, through incapacity and corruption, if not dishonesty, the finances had fallen. I could not conceal from him that his advent to the Ministry had very much increased them. It was generally believed, how far justly it was unnecessary to examine, that he had been the author of a policy which, in the opinion of Europe, had led to the present grave condition of affairs. It would require very energetic

measures on his part in the direction of radical reforms, and for the effective protection of the lives and property of the Christian populations, and for securing to them their just rights. To remove this impression Her Majesty's Government had come to the conclusion that it was of no use to trust to the promises which had been, over and over again, made to them, that the reforms they had a right to require should be carried out. They could no longer permit it to be said that they supported a Power which oppressed and ill-treated its Christian subjects with impunity.

They would, therefore, be under the necessity of taking such measures as they might deem best calculated to compel Turkey to fulfil the engagements she had entered into by the Convention of the 4th June for the good and equal government of the Christian populations of her Asiatic provinces. They had hitherto shown great moderation and consideration for the difficulties in which the Porte was placed.

When the fleet was ordered up to Besika Bay, some months ago, it was stopped, at the earnest request of the Sultan, on a distinct assurance from His Majesty that Baker Pasha should be appointed to a high command in Kurdistan, and that the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government should be at once introduced into two provinces.

The Ministry of Hairedtin Pasha did nothing to put those promises into execution, with the exception of naming Commissions of Inquiry, which were at once checked by orders from Constantinople, if they attempted to give real and effective protection and redress to the Christians, and to punish those who had ill-treated and outraged them.

The local Mussulman Chiefs and notables who had oppressed the Christians were invariably supported by some influence at the capital. The same thing occurred during the Ministry of Aarifi Pasha. The forbearance of Her Majesty's Government had thus been tried to the utmost. They could no longer rely upon any promises that they received from the Porte, and they had consequently determined that Her Majesty's fleet should now come to Besika Bay.

Such was the general purport of my observations to Mahmoud Nedim Pasha. He admitted that the promises and engagements of the Porte had been constantly broken, and that Turkey had neglected to follow the advice that Her Majesty's Government had repeatedly given to her, and which alone could have saved her from the difficulties with which she was now surrounded, and which, he did not hide from himself, were of the most critical nature. He had always been of opinion, although he was credited with very different views, that the friendship and alliance of England were absolutely necessary to the existence of the Turkish Empire. Such was his conviction as a Mussulman and as a patriot, and upon it his policy would be founded.

Unfortunately, it had been too much the habit of the Porte, in consequence of its weakness and of the constant pressure brought to bear on it by rival Powers, to seek to deceive Europe. It was ready to promise anything demanded of it, although well aware that what it promised it could not execute, or with the secret determination of finding reasons to avoid its engagements.

He was not surprised that, owing to the distrust and irritation which this policy had already caused Her Majesty's Government, they should feel themselves compelled to change their attitude towards the Porte, but he most deeply lamented the determination to which they had come of sending the fleet to Besika Bay. It would, of course, taken with the resignation of Midhat Pasha, who had assigned for its grounds his entry into the Ministry, be interpreted by public opinion as being directed against him personally. That signified little. Rather than be the cause of difficulties to his country, he would at once resign. But he dreaded the effect upon the Sultan. I was well aware of the mental condition of His Majesty. He would see in the approach of the English fleet a danger to his personal safety, and under the influence of his fears it was impossible to say what he might do. The result upon him might be that he would lose his head altogether, that he might become totally unable to consider and make up his mind as to the reforms which should be put into execution, and that the object we had in view might thus be frustrated.

He might as likely as not throw himself entirely into the arms of a Power hostile to the interests of England, and it was impossible to foresee the consequences if His Majesty were to take this course.

He, therefore, implored me to prevent the coming of the fleet to Besika Bay.

Its presence there would utterly paralyze the action of the Government. I might threaten to send for the fleet to compel the Porte to adopt a policy in conformity with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, but if the fleet were once at the entrance to the Dardanelles, it would be considered as a menace and a pressure upon the Turkish Government, to which, in face of public opinion, it might not be able to yield. He was ready, he ended by declaring, to use all the influence he might possess over the Sultan and in the Council to induce them to yield to the demands of England, and to put into execution, with the least possible delay, the reforms promised to her. He had already given a proof of his determination to compel the Ministry to enter upon an honest and energetic policy, by carrying in the Council, after much opposition from some of his colleagues, and prolonged discussion, a resolution that before any attempt were made to raise a fresh loan, or to enter upon any new financial arrangements, the creditors of the Porte should receive guarantees that their claims should be satisfied as far as possible.

If I would make a list for him of the reforms demanded by Her Majesty's Government, and other matters of which I required the settlement, he would then tell me frankly which of them the Porte could agree to, and to which of them it could not. I might rest assured that he would do all in his power to satisfy Her Majesty's Government any myself.

I replied, that although I deeply deplored the unfortunate constitutional infirmity of the Sultan, for whom I had the most sincere personal friendship, yet he must bear in mind that the health of a Sovereign could not be allowed to interfere with the vital interests of an Empire. Her Majesty's Government had, no doubt, fully weighed all the considerations which he had placed before me with regard to the presence of the fleet in Besika Bay, and as they had decided upon it, I could not interfere to prevent it. I would make a memorandum, as he had requested me, of the demands of Her Majesty's Government, and of the measures which I considered it absolutely necessary that the Porte should take to satisfy them of its sincerity, and of its desire to reform the administration of the country, and I would call upon him with it on Wednesday morning. In the meantime, I could not do better than recommend to him the consideration of the notes exchanged between Safvet Pasha and myself on this subject last autumn, which fully explained the views of your Lordship. The best advice I could give him was to prevail upon the Sultan and his Ministers to give proofs of their determination to follow the counsels of Her Majesty's Government, and to fulfil their engagements to England without one moment's delay.

His Highness suggested that after I had shown him my memorandum and had heard from him, confidentially, which of the measures that I proposed might and ought to be carried out, I should address a note to the Porte, or take some other step, to require their immediate execution. If I then found that there was still no hope of anything being done, I could advise Her Majesty's Government to send the fleet to Besika Bay. But he earnestly begged me to keep the orders which had now been given to it a secret from his colleagues for the present, and especially not to allow them to come to the ears of the Sultan. He should himself communicate on the subject with the Prime Minister, and would tell me the result when I saw him on Wednesday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 52.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 924. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, October 27, 1879.

My Lord,

ON the 18th instant I sent a telegram to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, asking him "whether he could tell Midhat Pasha, from me, to let me hear, through him, at once, should he suspect that there was any intention to recall him, and to urge his Highness, on my part, not to resign." I sent this telegram, as I had reason to fear that the new Ministry, in which Midhat Pasha has powerful enemies, would at once recall him, and I had made up my mind to make a direct and energetic representation to the Sultan against his Highness's dismissal if they did so.

Mr. Eldridge replied on the 20th that he could only deliver my message by going

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himself to Damascus, and that he was starting for that place the same morning. On the following day he telegraphed from Damascus that he "had arrived there that morning, and had talked to Midhat Pasha, who begged him to thank me for the kind interest I had taken in him, but that he had sent his resignation in the previous Sunday, when he learnt the change of Ministry, as his position, previously difficult, had become intolerable, in consequence of the appointment of Saïd and Mahmoud Pashas." Mr. Eldridge added that he thought that Midhat Pasha would be pleased if his resignation were not accepted.

I had, in the meanwhile, informed Saïd Pasha that the recall, without sufficient cause, of Midhat Pasha, would produce a very bad impression on Her Majesty's Government, and might lead to serious consequences in Syria.

I received, on the morning of the 22nd, a letter from Munir Bey (a copy of which I beg to inclose), informing me that the Sultan had learnt with surprise the resignation of Midhat Pasha, and that he had telegraphed to him that it had arrived precisely at the moment when he was about to express to his Highness the great satisfaction he had felt with the manner in which his Highness was governing Syria, to which I had borne testimony on the occasion of my last audience with His Majesty. Munir Bey adds that the Sultan presumes that Midhat Pasha's decision arises from the difficulties of which I had spoken to his Majesty, and concerning which he intended to ask for full information. His Majesty had consequently decided upon sending to Damascus some one who would learn from Midhat Pasha himself the true reason for his determination to resign. His Majesty further expressed his wish to know my opinion and my views as regards the reasons for which his Highness had so unexpectedly offered his resignation.

I replied to His Majesty, through Munir Bey, that I had learnt with regret that Midhat Pasha had sent in his resignation; that I hoped he would at once withdraw it when he learnt the kindly feeling of His Majesty towards him; that in speaking favourably to His Majesty of his Highness's administration, I had solely in view His Majesty's interests; that it afforded me great satisfaction to find that the populations were well satisfied with the Governor-General whom His Majesty had sent them; and that they were consequently loyal and grateful to His Majesty. I added that I could not conceal from His Majesty that the state of Syria was very critical, and that the recall of Midhat Pasha might have serious consequences; and that I had no doubt that the cause of his resignation was the position in which he was placed, in consequence of the difficulties that were thrown in his way, and prevented him from serving His Majesty with all the zeal and devotion that he desired.

I sent my letter to the Palace by Sir A. Sanderson, and I asked him to learn the course the Sultan intended to pursue with regard to Midhat Pasha, especially as one of my colleagues had been spreading a report that His Majesty had been greatly offended by what I had said to him in praise of his Highness, on my return from Syria, and that immediately after he had seen me, he had determined upon dismissing his Highness. Munir Bey gave Sir A. Sanderson the most solemn assurances that there was not a word of truth in this report; that so far from such being the case, what I had told His Majesty had made a very favourable impression upon him, and that he had already telegraphed to Midhat Pasha to assure him that he had His Majesty's complete confidence, and that His Majesty had refused to accept his resignation.

I accordingly telegraphed to Mr. Eldridge the substance of Munir Bey's letter to me, and requested him to communicate it to Midhat Pasha, and earnestly to request him, on my part, not to persist in his resignation. I further begged Mr. Eldridge to do his best to dissuade his Highness from entering upon hostilities against the Druses, which Vice-Consul Jago had informed me he was threatening to do, and to tell him from me that I earnestly hoped he would settle the affair without bloodshed.

On the 24th, a telegram from Mr. Eldridge informed me that Midhat Pasha had received from the Sultan a satisfactory telegram declining to accept his resignation, and that the affair of the Hauran was serious. I trust, therefore, that his Highness will remain in Syria.

I did not ask Mr. Eldridge to go to Damascus to deliver my message to Midhat Pasha, but I trust that your Lordship will approve his having gone there to communicate personally with his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Munir Bey to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Personnelle.) *Yildiz, le 22 Octobre*, 1879.

Chère Excellence,

MIDHAT PACHA a envoyé un télégramme par lequel il donne sa démission du Gouverneur-Général de la Syrie en alléguant son âge avancé, le besoin qu'il éprouve de se reposer, &c., &c.

Sa Majesté, surprise de cette détermination, lui répond aujourd'hui même que cette démission lui parvient au moment où précisément elle se disposait à lui exprimer sa grande satisfaction pour la manière dont il gouverne la Syrie; manière à laquelle votre Excellence a rendu hommage pendant sa dernière audience. Le Sultan pense, pour le moment, que la décision prise par Midhat Pacha prend sa source dans les difficultés dont votre Excellence a entretenu Sa Majesté lors de la même audience, et sur la nature desquelles elle comptait demander des informations précises par la même occasion.

Le Sultan a en conséquence décidé d'envoyer à Damas quelqu'un qui recueillira de la bouche même de Midhat Pacha les véritables causes de sa résolution. Sa Majesté désire connaître toutefois l'opinion et la pensée de votre Excellence qui concerne les motifs pour lesquels cette démission a été offerte si inopinément.

Mille compliments, &c.
(Signé) MUNIR.

No. 53.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 926.) *Therapia, October 28*, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Angora and Busrah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

October 18, 1879.

(Extract.)

CAPTAIN COOPER, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls for Anatolia, reached Angora on Saturday the 10th October, and spent three days here. The object of his visit was to call the attention of the Governor-General and other vilayet officials to the many abuses and irregularities of the Local Government of Kaisery, where he resides, and also to inform the Provincial Government with regard to the many unauthorized and illegal proceedings of the Kaïmakams of Beghazlean, Lungourlou, and the Mutessarif of Yaggat, through which he had passed on his way hither.

I found Captain Cooper's presence here a great support and help to me in the many official remonstrances which I am compelled to make with regard to the legal, financial, and police administration of the province, all of which at present seem to be out of joint. In the numerous official and semi-official visits Captain Cooper and myself made and received on the officials and notables of the various communities, we were both struck with the wholesome dread all administrators seem to have of Consular supervision, their evident desire to do what they could to rectify abuses, and the hearty good-will shown and good wishes expressed by members of all communities towards us personally and for the success of our efforts.

This state of feeling induces me to venture the suggestion that rapid and constant travelling throughout the province would do much to make such official supervision more effective than it has been hitherto, and should this suggestion meet with your Excellency's approval, I should have much pleasure in undertaking the increased duties and responsibilities it would involve.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Consul Robertson to Lieutenant-Colonel Miles.

Busrah, September 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Zabit Pasha, who was deputed by the Porte from Baghdad to inquire into the charges of oppression and corruption brought by his Excellency Abdullah Pasha against the Mutessarif of the Montafik, Fahd Pasha, arrived here, after visiting various parts of the Montafik country, on the 2nd ultimo, and on the 3rd instant Abdullah Pasha received a telegram from the Porte stating that, the charges made by his Excellency against Fahd Pasha having been fully confirmed, he should be dismissed, and Colonel Ahmed Bey, who held a military command at Hellah, appointed Mutessarif in his stead. A battalion of infantry had already been dispatched hence to Nassreyah to insure tranquillity, and Ahmed Bey arrived there yesterday.

All previous rulers of the Montafik for 200 years past have been members of Sadoon family, and the appointment of a Turk in the present doubtful state of the Arab population seems to be a rather risky experiment.

Ahmed Bey is, however, highly spoken of, and the mutual jealousies of the Sadoon will enable him, if capable, to manage and make use of them.

Yesterday a telegram was received by General Zabit Pasha from the Minister of the Interior notifying his appointment to be Governor-General of Busrah in Abdullah Pasha's stead, as I reported to you by telegraph.

Military men have thus been appointed to the Governments of Busrah and the Montafik, and Lieutenant-Colonel Said Bey is spoken of as Said Pasha's probable successor as Governor of El Hasa.

Whether these several appointments of military men to be Civil Governors have any particular significance is not as yet known here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. J. C. ROBERTSON.

No. 54.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, November 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 27 Octobre,* 1879.

LES paroles prononcées par Lord Salisbury au banquet donné en son honneur à Manchester témoignent des sentiments de justice qui animent sa Seigneurie, autant que de ses bonnes dispositions à notre égard, et, à ce titre, nous lui en sommes profondément reconnaissants.

Ainsi que l'a dit si bien le noble Lord à cet égard, on ne saurait exiger de la Sublime Porte, à la suite d'une guerre malheureuse qui lui a coûté tant de sacrifices et tant d'argent, un relèvement plus rapide et lui demander plus de promptitude et plus de concessions dans ses réformes. Ce serait lui imposer une tâche au-dessus de ses forces et de nature à affaiblir sa vitalité.

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas, malgré la situation difficile de ses finances, reculé devant la nécessité de s'occuper de la réorganisation du pays, et déjà un grand pas a été fait dans cette voie et de notables réformes ont été introduites dans différentes branches de l'Administration.

L'attention du Gouvernement Impérial s'est portée en premier lieu et très-sérieusement sur la réorganisation de la justice. Des sections ont été créées au Ministère, et la direction en a été confiée à des fonctionnaires ayant fait leurs preuves. Les Tribunaux ont été autorisés à recevoir directement les requêtes concernant les réclamations en matières civiles. Les Tribunaux de Première Instance dans les chefs-lieux des livas et les Cours d'Appel des villes ont été divisés en deux Chambres—Civile et Correctionnelle. Une loi sur l'organisation des Tribunaux a été passée, s'inspirant du principe de l'inamovibilité des magistrats. Une large part est assurée aux Chrétiens dans la magistrature. Les nominations des Naïbs auront lieu sous la surveillance et le contrôle du Ministère de la Justice. Des codes d'instruction criminelle et de procédure civile sont promulgués. L'administration des prisons et d'autres lieux de détention est dévolue au Ministère de la Justice. Une École de Droit est instituée dans la capitale, et ceux qui y auront achevé leurs études et reçu leurs diplômes seront

admis dans la magistrature. Outre la création d'un Ministère Public, des Inspecteurs Judiciaires ont été envoyés dans les villes à l'effet de contrôler le fonctionnement des Tribunaux. Des notariats ont été également créés, et l'exécution des sentences a été confiée aux Tribunaux auxquels des corps d'huissiers, formant des bureaux distincts, ont été annexés. On peut, par conséquent, affirmer que la séparation de la justice d'avec l'Administration, et son indépendance, tant de fois proclamées, ont été cette fois-ci réellement exécutées.

Votre Excellence voudra bien remarquer que ces importantes réformes ont été réalisées dans l'espace de quelques mois, grâce à l'infatigable activité de son Altesse Said Pacha, alors Ministre de la Justice.

La nouvelle gendarmerie, dont le plan a été déjà approuvé par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et qui offre toutes les conditions voulues d'ordre et de sécurité, est en pleine organisation tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces où sa création a été décidée.

De grands efforts sont faits aussi pour la réorganisation des finances et pour l'accroissement des revenus du Trésor Impérial.

A cet effet, des Inspecteurs Civils ont été envoyés dans toutes les villes de l'Empire avec la mission de contrôler sévèrement les recettes et les dépenses et d'adresser des Rapports détaillés à l'Administration Centrale pour lui rendre compte de leur inspection. L'élément étranger a été largement utilisé dans ces nouvelles institutions.

Nous ne prétendons pas que ces mesures ne soient pas susceptibles d'amélioration; mais nous sommes persuadés qu'avec le temps elles ne manqueraient pas de produire les meilleurs résultats. Elles témoignent, dans tous les cas, de la bonne volonté du Gouvernement Impérial à mettre le plus tôt possible à exécution les réformes dont notre pays a besoin. Nous avons trop de confiance dans les sentiments de justice et d'équité de Lord Salisbury pour ne pas espérer qu'il nous tiendra compte de nos efforts, et c'est dans cette conviction que je prie votre Excellence de s'exprimer dans le sens qui précède auprès de sa Seigneurie.

J'aurai l'honneur d'adresser prochainement à votre Excellence un travail très-détaillé sur ce sujet afin qu'elle puisse faire connaître plus minutieusement à sa Seigneurie nos efforts incessants et les résultats obtenus.

No. 55.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1318.) *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE informed you by telegraph this evening that I have requested the First Lord of the Admiralty to instruct the Admiral commanding in the Mediterranean not to move the British fleet from Malta for some days, but I do not wish that for the present it should transpire that any orders have been given on the subject to Admiral Hornby.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 56.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1320.) *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1879.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day, by appointment, in order to make to me a communication on the part of his Government. He said that his Government had been much disquieted by hearing that the British fleet under Admiral Hornby, now at Malta, had received orders to go into Turkish waters. He represented the evil effects which such a demonstration, as he expressed it, would have upon the minds of the Turkish population, and said that his Government had directed him to address the most earnest request to the English Government that they would countermand the order which had been given.

He hoped that, as a friendly Power, England would give a favourable answer to this request.

At the same time, he was authorized to assure me that the change of Ministry

which had taken place at the Porte would not involve any change in the foreign policy of Turkey.

The reforms which the Turkish Government had promised to Her Majesty's Government were now under the consideration of the Ministers, and would very soon receive the authorization of the Sultan; and he had every reason to believe that European officers would be invested with independent commands in Asia Minor.

He reiterated with much earnestness these assurances of the immediate intention of his Government to introduce reforms.

In reply, I pointed out to him in the first place that the request which he urged was one of a very novel character. There was no Treaty, or engagement of any kind, precluding Her Majesty's fleet from going into any part of the Ægean, and as a matter of fact the squadrons of other Powers were in Turkish ports at the present time.

If there had been any intention of sending the fleet into the Sea of Marmora I could have understood the disquietude of the Sultan's Ministers, and should have recognized the legitimate character of their objections.

At the same time, we were willing for the present to give the requisite countermand in deference to the wishes and feelings of the Sultan, in whose welfare England had always taken a lively interest. But I could not conceal from him that that interest had been much diminished, and the feelings both of the English Government and people were undergoing a material change, in consequence of the persistent disregard of their obligations which was shown by the Ottoman Government, and the delay which had taken place in introducing the reforms which had been promised, and which were absolutely essential to the existence of the Turkish Empire.

Every communication I received, from the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan especially, convinced me that the state of disorder into which the provinces had been allowed to fall was not only fatal to the well-being of the inhabitants, but if allowed to continue must produce the disintegration of the Empire.

I drew his attention to the special necessity of providing an efficient gendarmerie. Until that was established and a certain number of European officers appointed, at all events for the time, to train it and command it, there seemed to be little hope that the security for life or property in Asia Minor could be restored.

I urged upon him, in as earnest language as I could use, the extreme gravity of the present crisis, and the probability that if no remedial measures were adopted the populations themselves would not long endure the existing misgovernment.

In conclusion, I stated that for the present the fleet should not move into Turkish waters, but that I could make no promises for the future; and that I could give no undertaking that England would abstain from active measures if nothing were done to satisfy the promises which the Government of the Sultan had given.

When, some days ago, the fleet was placed under orders to leave Malta, it was not intended to attach to its movements the significance which has been attributed to them by the Sultan's Ministers. But, nevertheless, at their request, the orders will, for the present, be suspended.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 56 A.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 727.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1879.*

SULTAN was very much gratified to learn decision of Her Majesty's Government not to send fleet into Turkish waters at the present moment. His Majesty says he is most anxious to see the reforms carried out, and attaches the more importance to them since it is only through their execution that he will be [? able], as your Excellency states, to secure England's support in saving and defending his Empire. His Majesty hopes that some allowance may be made for the difficulties

and intrigues with which he has had to contend in this matter, and that he will obtain England's support.

I hear, on good authority, that the Council of Ministers have recommended to Sultan adoption of reforms contemplated by Treaty of Berlin and Cyprus Convention, and others which Porte may deem necessary.

(Most Confidential.)

I have received a very satisfactory message from the Sheik-ul-Islam, who is the highest religious authority, to the effect that he is strongly convinced of the necessity of reforms, and that I can depend on his exercising all his authority and all his influence on the Ministers to have them carried out. He assures me that he is convinced that the Sultan is really and truly bent on putting the reforms into execution.

No. 56 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1322.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1879.*

THE account which has been received from your Excellency of your recent visit to Syria and to some of the islands in the Archipelago, as described in your despatch No. 900, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, has been read by Her Majesty's Government with very great interest. The opportunity that has thus been afforded to your Excellency, from observations made on the spot, of acquiring a more accurate knowledge of the actual condition of the country and its populations, and of ascertaining personally the views of the leading notabilities, will doubtless be advantageous both to your Excellency and to Her Majesty's Government, and will likewise, it may be hoped, be the means of inciting the Turkish authorities to earnest efforts in carrying out the reforms which are so urgently called for throughout the Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1323.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1879.*

I HAVE to express to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the intention, recorded in your despatch No. 897 of the 20th ultimo, to communicate to the Sultan translations into Turkish of the documents there referred to relating to an outrage said to have been committed upon Armenians by Turks in the neighbourhood of Aintab.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1324.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1879.*

YOUR Excellency's despatch No. 882, Secret, of the 15th October, has been received and laid before the Queen; and I have to state to you that the language used by your Excellency at your interview with the Sultan on that day, when speaking with His Majesty on the present condition of the Turkish Empire, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1325.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1879.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 881 of the 15th ultimo, I have to state to you that I approve your action in having prepared, for the use of His Majesty the Sultan, the memorandum setting forth the objections which have been made to the new regulations for the reform of the Judicial Tribunals, of which a copy was forwarded with your Excellency's above-named despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 60.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1343.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction the assurances which your Excellency has received, as reported in your telegram No. 727 of to-day, of the desire of the Porte to carry out as speedily as possible the reforms suggested at the Berlin Congress. Your Excellency, however, makes no mention of any intention having been expressed by the Sultan to appoint a European officer to the independent command of the gendarmerie in Asia Minor. You will impress upon His Majesty that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, this is a most essential point, without which all attempts at carrying out the necessary reforms will fail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 60 A.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 722.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1879.

THIS afternoon Count Károlyi adverted to the rumours which had been circulated by the newspapers with respect to the proposed intervention of England in Turkey. His Excellency said that the object which England apparently had in view was one in which Austria thoroughly sympathized, and that the Austrian Agent had received instructions to do his utmost to support the English action in the matter. Baron Haymerle wished him to tell me this, and at the same time to say that the Austrian help would perhaps have been more effective if I had been able to give them previous warning of the steps which Her Majesty's Government contemplated taking. I replied by thanking him very cordially for this proffered assistance, which, I said, would be of the greatest value, and which I trusted he would continue to render. We should certainly, I said, have warned him of our intention to take these steps if the crisis had been the result of any instructions on our part. The orders, however, which had been given for the fleet to move had not had in view any menace to the Sultan of Turkey, and had only received that colour from the fears of the Sultan and his advisers. Sir Henry Layard was pressing, as he had pressed for some time past, the necessity of reform on the Sultan of Turkey, and no doubt at the present moment he was doing so with the greater energy that his own journey had convinced him of the extreme imminence of the danger arising from the present misgovernment of the Asiatic provinces. I said I hoped the recent panic in Constantinople might have a salutary effect, though it had not resulted from any deliberate action on our part. Her Majesty's Government had pressed for the appointment of a competent European officer to superintend the gendarmerie in the disturbed districts. Her Majesty's Government had naturally named an Englishman with whose qualifications we were familiar, General Baker; but I said that we should be equally well satisfied that an Austrian or a German, or, indeed, an officer of any European nationality except Russian, should be appointed to an analogous command.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 60 B.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 731.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 8, 1878.

I AM pressing Baker's appointment, and I hear that it is decided upon. But it is possible that he may receive some command not in Kurdistan or Armenia. I have given Baker Pasha to understand that what Her Majesty's Government require is that he should be sent to those provinces.

No. 60 C.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 280. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1879, 11·10 P.M.

BAKER should be employed in the place where there is most disturbance, otherwise he will do little good. If there is jealousy on the part of other Powers, we have no sort of objection to the employment, in addition to Baker, of an Austrian or German officer of gendarmerie, nor of a French officer in any place where there are no Catholics.

No. 61.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1346. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1879.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to represent to the Sultan that, in the event of Baker Pasha being appointed to an independent command of the gendarmerie in Asia Minor, it is most important that he should be employed in the most disturbed districts, as otherwise his services will be of little avail for promoting the execution of the promised reforms. You will at the same time inform His Majesty that if any jealousy should arise on the part of other Powers on account of Baker Pasha's appointment, Her Majesty's Government would offer no objection whatever to the employment, in addition to that officer, of an Austrian or German officer of gendarmerie, or to the appointment of a French officer to any district where there are no Roman Catholics.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 62.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Damascus, October* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatches Nos. 12 and 13, of the 16th August and the 6th October respectively, touching the position occupied by the Hauran Druses towards the Government of Syria, and to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte reporting troubles in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Damascus, October 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatches to your Excellency Nos. 21 and 22, dated the 16th August and the 6th instant, bearing upon the political position occupied by the Druses of the Hauran with reference to the Turkish authorities.

An incident having lately occurred which seems calculated to bring matters to a speedy crisis in this direction, and with grave results, I yesterday telegraphed to your Excellency a summary of the present situation.

I now beg to report that a few days ago the cause of a Moslem villager of Busr-el-Hariry, a Moslem village situated on the south-west edge of the Lejah, whose bride had been carried off by another Moslem, and having been espoused by the Druses of the Druse village of Dweïry, in the vicinity in the Hauran plains, a conflict arising therefrom, and embittered by an old enmity, took place between the respective Moslems and Druse villagers, resulting in six Moslems and three Druses being killed, besides several wounded.

The civil authorities despatched the Secard of Police with a body of horsemen and two agents to endeavour to allay the ferment among the Moslem Hauranese, and to bring the parties to justice, directing also Hazimeh, a Druse Chief and Mudir who happened to be here, to return and assist.

The accused persons, twenty in number, expecting scant justice from the authorities, however, fled to the neighbouring Jebel Druse, for refuge among their co-religionists; and, in consequence, on the 13th instant, Djamil Pasha, Commandant de Place of Damascus, left for the Hauran with a battalion of nizam, and has since been reinforced at his request by two others, making, with the battalions stationed in the Hauran, four battalions.

Three other battalions, from Kalomon, Hamah, and Beyrout, are already being summoned and despatched, while three battalions of redifs, just returned here from Roumelia, are ordered to hold themselves in readiness. A large body of the mounted gendarmes has already left.

The Moslems, holding themselves to be the aggrieved party, demand justice; and the authorities insist upon the Druse Chiefs delivering up the fugitives to be tried and punished if guilty.

Djamil Pasha, having held several meetings with the headmen of the Druses, and dictated his conditions, the Druse Chiefs left for the Jebel Druse to confer with their people, and the Pasha, doubting their sincerity or power to deliver up the accused, has thus demanded reinforcements, and is encamped near the springs at the south-west extremity of the Lejah, near the foot of the Jebel Druse.

Such is the present position of affairs, and it remains to be seen whether the Druses will, for national considerations of a prudential nature accede to the demand of the authorities, in face of the military demonstration now being made against them, or whether, believing as they do that their subjugation and the assimilation of their country to direct Turkish rule is what is really aimed at, they will elect to fight.

My latest advices are that they will resist, and are preparing to do so. Whether true or not it is impossible to say. They will, doubtless, hold a temporizing policy so long as the authorities will permit them, in hopes of some arrangement being possible.

It is difficult to tell what forces the Druses can command. The authorities place them at 8,000 men; the Druses anything between 7,000 and 20,000. On the other hand the forces, military and civil, at the command of the authorities will probably amount to nearly 4,000 at the outside, few of the nizam battalions being complete, while the three battalions of redifs are in a wretched condition as regards health, and may not probably amount to 600 men capable of marching. These last, which form the remains of the three local battalions of redifs, which left there at the outbreak of the late war, evince considerable dislike at the prospect of entering so soon upon another campaign.

The authorities state that the Hauranese Moslem peasantry have demanded permission to attack the Druses alone, and that they can muster 5,000 horsemen. This statement must, I believe, be received with caution, but it is advanced as a proof of the detestation in which the Druses are held by the whole country.

The Bedouin tribes around are also said to be ready to act against the common enemy.

These last, however, cannot be held of much account, even if true; while the Moslem Hauranese, seing the great ease with which their frequent but petty rebellions against the Government (the last in 1877), arising out of official exactions and oppressions have been put down, are not worth much for aggressive purposes against Druses.

Without doubt Midhat Pasha's determination that the parties to the present loss of life shall be tried according to laws and regulations would be most just if sought to be applied to the settled districts of Syria, but to attempt to apply it to the Hauran, the varied sects of which, although united in one common hatred to the Government, and always ready, as elsewhere in this country, to bury such for the moment in order to gratify sectarian passions or mutual jealousies, seems to be to ignore the present position of its population, and the difficulties which it presents to carrying into effect, without proper and prior preparation, all the advantages to be ultimately connected with a stable and reformed administration.

I need hardly acquaint your Excellency that in the Hauran personal collision, involving loss of life is rare, owing to the dread of creating blood-feuds with their consequences; and that when occurring such are generally condoned by payment of blood-money, by arbitrary imprisonment in a few cases, or by the flight of the aggressor to avoid retaliation by some near relation or kinsman.

I must say, however, that such great loss of life as the present very rarely happens.

For better elucidating the difference between the Hauran and the settled districts of Syria, I may venture to mention that as late as October 1874, these same inhabitants of Busr-el-Hariry opened fire for two hours upon Essaad Pasha, then Vali and Mushir of Syria, when passing their village with a body of troops, on a tour of inspection through the Hauran; while the peasantry of Ed Dur, a Druse village close to Dweïry, barricaded their abodes and fired upon his men at their approach, until assured of His Highness's pacific intentions.

This determination of Midhat Pasha has, however, unfortunately, produced the present complication, as not having been able to inspire the Druses with the confidence he expected in his sense of justice—owing to his openly expressed sentiments and strong bias against them—so as to induce them to surrender the fugitives for proper judicial trial, his Highness has been fain to call in the military authorities, who have thus embraced with much energy and promptitude the opportunity thus given them on his responsibility of engaging in an undertaking which has, for prudential reasons at least, been carefully avoided in past years and under happier circumstances.

In the present matter my opinion has not been asked; nor indeed has it, I need hardly say, been tendered in any way.

As regards the Druses no communication has reached me from them, although since his Highness's arrival, the protection of England against their persecution by the Government, which they have long professed to see was coming, has been invoked on more than one occasion. As I have reported to your Excellency my endeavours have been to inspire confidence in his Highness's sense of justice—endeavours, however, which I have seen plainly have failed to produce the necessary effect, being neutralized by his too openly-expressed bias against them as alleged harbourers of marauders and assassins.

I should, however, report to your Excellency that within the last day or two his Highness seems awakended to the prospect before him, and has acknowledged to me the gravity of the situation, while seeking excuses for his proceedings in the interests of common justice, and which I need hardly say are valid enough in themselves. And, again, to-day, having called upon him with Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, who happened to be in Damascus, his Highness could not conceal his uneasiness, nor his readiness to find some other solution to arrive at justice without too strict an adherence to judicial form if the Druses could only be got to trust to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 63.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 15. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, October* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatch No. 14 of the 22nd instant, and to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of my despatch No. 20 of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, marked "Confidential," touching troubles in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Damascus, October* 26, 1879.

IN continuation of my despatch to your Excellency of the 25th instant, respecting the Druses of the Hauran, I have the honour to report that the military authorities are still dispatching troops in that direction.

Two battalions of redifs, with four guns and artillerymen, left yesterday, while a few foot gendarmes of the Lebanon have arrived in Damascus with, it is said, 800 rifles formerly lent to Rustem Pasha.

Accounts from the Hauran state that the Druses have evacuated their villages, both in the Jebel Druse and in the plain at the foot, sending their families and effects to the more inaccessible parts of the mountain, and massing their fighting men under the leadership of their four principle Sheikhs, Amer, Hazimeh, and the two brothers El-Attrash, near the north-western foot of the mountain, from which the troops are now distant about five hours' march.

This would seem to indicate that the Druses no longer intend, as in 1839 and in 1854, to seek refuge in the rocky mazes of the adjoining Lejah, no doubt on account of its want of water and their increased numbers and possessions.

I regret to have to report that in Damascus every effort that passion, prejudice, and party-spirit can suggest has been to excite and embroil matters, based chiefly upon the personal misunderstanding known to exist between the military and the civil heads of the Government.

This misunderstanding has unfortunately prevented the two heads from concerting together as to possible eventualities, has resulted in the civil authorities simply turning over the matter to the military when they found that their powers were insufficient to induce the Druses to deliver up the fugitives, and to the latter, without any apparent decided plan of action, massing troops against the Druses.

The result is found in the present peculiar position of the military in being obliged either to retire, with consequent loss of prestige, or to advance into a mountainous country containing no supplies, little water, where artillery and cavalry are practically useless, and where the Druses will probably wage a guerilla warfare, with the advantages of winter coming on, and of the roads to Damascus becoming impassible for conveyance of supplies.

I am informed, however, that yesterday evening the Mushir called on the Vali and had a long interview with reference to the present state of affairs. It may therefore, perhaps, be hoped both that the personal misunderstanding between them is at an end, and that some common line of action may be devised for saving the prestige of the Government, and at the same time for preventing unnecessary effusion of blood and the destruction of a district which furnishes the chief supplies of grain to Damascus. Already the price of grain has risen owing to the present situation.

Yesterday I saw Wasif Effendi, the Political Director of the vilayet, and in answer to his inquiries as to my opinion, dwelt plainly and at length as to the extreme impolicy from every point of view at the present moment of pushing matters to extremities, and convulsing the country by a useless war, more especially when nothing is prepared to take the place of the Druse population when it has been crushed or exterminated.

Vassif Effendi, while recognizing at its proper value the difficult position in which the Government has been placed by its precipitate action in the matter, was, I saw, prejudiced in favour of accepting the gauntlet which he pretended the Druses had thrown down.

Owing to the strong repugnance ever shown by Midhat Pasha to the slightest semblance of Consular interference in internal matters, I have not considered it my duty to offer his Highness without invitation my good offices towards facilitating an arrangement, knowing by what he has said that such would not be accepted in a form which would authorize me in acting with any fairness either to the Druses or to myself, more especially as endeavours are being made to make it appear that the present resistance of the latter is owing to the support they expect from England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 64.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 50. Political. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Aleih, October* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch No. 67, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting my proceedings during a recent visit to Damascus, which I trust will meet your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleih, October* 24, 1879.

ON the evening of the 19th instant I had the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the same date, asking me to convey to Midhat Pasha your wish to be informed through me immediately whether he suspected that there was any intention to recall (this word was indistinct in the telegram) him and to urge him on the part of your Excellency not to send in his resignation.

Early the following morning I received a public telegram announcing a change of Ministry at Constantinople, and the advent to power of Said and Mahmoud Pashas, and connecting this information with the serious and confidential nature of the communication which I had to make to Midhat Pasha. I decided to go myself to Damascus, and after having informed you by telegraph of my intention of doing so, I started on the night of the 20th instant, arriving on the morning of the 21st.

As soon as possible after my arrival I called upon his Highness and explained the nature of the message your Excellency had charged me to convey to him. He told me that he had no reason to suspect that there was any intention to remove him from his post, but that he found his position untenable, and that, having learnt on the 19th instant of the change of Ministry at Constantinople, he had, on the following day, telegraphed his resignation, a fact of which he told me he had already informed me by a confidential letter from his Private Secretary, Vassif Effendi, which, however, had crossed me on the road.

On my arrival here on the 23rd instant I found Vassif Effendi's letter, of which I have the honour to inclose an extract as giving a better summary of the Pasha's ideas than I may perhaps be able to do from what I gathered during the interview I had with him, as this document contains the substance of what he said to me.

By this extract your Excellency will perceive that his Highness had, in a certain sense, anticipated your instructions to me, and he begged me most earnestly to thank you for the kind interest you were taking in him, and immediately after our interview I telegraphed to you the substance of what had taken place, and added, as an opinion of my own, which I rather formed from Midhat Pasha's general tone and expressions than from anything which he actually said, that I thought he would be gratified if his resignation were not accepted. When he did me the honour to call upon me the next morning, the 22nd instant, I informed him of the substance of the telegram which I had sent to you, and he appeared much pleased that I had expressed this opinion, and thanked me warmly for having done so, stating that he should await

results, but that he was very anxious to receive from you, through me, some reply to my telegram to your Excellency. Of this I at once informed your Excellency by telegraph, as also of my intention to leave Damascus on the following morning.

Calling towards evening to take leave of the Pasha, he received while I was with him information that a telegram consisting of about 400 groups was being transmitted to him, but that it would take some hours before the transmission would be complete. I begged his Highness to inform me, as soon as the telegram was deciphered, whether I could be of any further service to him, in which case I was willing to delay my departure. At midnight I received a hasty message from him, to the effect that the telegram was most satisfactory, and, in substance, consisted in the announcement, couched in very flattering terms, that his resignation had not been accepted, but expressing His Majesty the Sultan's desire for an explanation of the motives which led the Pasha to resign. This, the message added, his Highness had the intention of doing, and would send me further details by letter.

He also informed me that he saw no necessity for me to delay my departure, at the same time thanking me for my offer to remain. I accordingly left Damascus at 4 A.M. yesterday, and on arrival here I informed your Excellency by telegraph of my return, and of the satisfactory nature of the communication which Midhat Pasha had received from Constantinople.

I also mentioned that the disturbance in the Hauran which Mr. Vice-Consul Jago had already reported to you by telegraph seems serious, and that, by post, you would receive details which I leave Mr. Jago to furnish.

In Damascus my hurried and unexpected visit was connected by public rumour with the disturbance in the Hauran and an intention of interfering on behalf of the Druses was attributed to me, but on this subject I hope to find time to make some further remarks in another despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Vassif Effendi to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Confidentielle et Particulière.)
(Extrait.) *Damascus, le 20 Octobre*, 1879.

"C'EST en toute hâte que je viens vous aviser tout confidentiellement que son Altesse vient pardépêche aujourd'hui donner sa démission.

"Dégoûté des obstacles, entraves que la Porte ne cessait journellement de lui susciter pour lui créer une situation intenable et impossible, fatigué d'une lutte continuelle, persécuté ignoblement et continuellement par le parti militaire, ajoutez à tout cela le nouveau changement de Ministère dans lequel figure Mahmoud Nedim comme Ministre de l'Intérieur, et vous verrez au juste les raisons qui ont poussé son Altesse à donner sa démission.

"Il a motivé sa démission pour cause de vieillesse.

"Je suis donc à vous prier de bien vouloir porter le fait à la connaissance de Sir Henry Layard et cela par dépêche chiffrée."

No. 65.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 10.)

(No. 51. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Aleih, October* 27, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two further despatches Nos. 68 and 69, dated the 26th and 27th instant respectively, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on matters relative to my recent visit to Damascus, and the disturbance in the Hauran, the details of which are given in Mr. Vice-Consul Jago's despatches Nos. 14 and 15.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleih, October* 26, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that on the morning of the 25th instant I received by post from Damascus your Excellency's telegram dated the 22nd instant, informing me that Midhat Pasha's resignation would not be accepted by the Sultan; that His Majesty was greatly satisfied at the manner in which you informed His Majesty Midhat Pasha governed Syria, and would send a message to that effect; that His Majesty would send some one to Damascus to communicate with him in regard to the difficulties his Highness met with in governing the province, and that you requested me to do what I could to dissuade Midhat Pasha from entering upon hostilities with the Druses, and to tell him that you earnestly hoped that he would settle the affair without bloodshed, as it was very important that he should do so.

Shortly after receiving the above telegram, I had the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the the 24th instant, stating that it was very necessary that his Highness Midhat Pasha should be made acquainted with your Excellency's answer contained in your telegram of the 22nd instant.

I accordingly at once wrote in a private and confidential manner to his Highness Midhat Pasha, giving him the substance of your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd instant, and stating that I was willing to use my influence over the Druses in order to settle the difficulty on the same conditions that I mentioned to him at the recent interview I had with him at Damascus. These conditions were that as there are always two parties to a quarrel his Highness should guarantee that both parties be treated with the same justice, and upon these conditions I undertook to use my influence with the Druses to induce them to surrender the parties accused. This guarantee, however, his Highness refused to give me at the time, and on the 25th instant I replied to your Excellency's telegrams of the 22nd and 24th instant, informing you that I quite appreciated the gravity of the situation, and that I offered to use my influence over the Druses on the above-mentioned conditions, which his Highness had refused, and I added that I again offered him my help.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleih, October* 27, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that I have this morning received a letter from Midhat Pasha, by which his Highness again virtually declines to accede to the conditions upon which I offered him—and alone deemed myself justified in offering him—my assistance in order to procure the surrender of the Druses implicated in the late Houran disturbances, and thus materially to contribute to the important task of pacifying that district, without either diminishing the prestige of the Imperial authorities or sacrificing the Druses to party spirit and revenge. The conditions were simply that both parties to the quarrel, Moslems as well as Druses, should be treated with equal justice and on the same footing.

While promising to guarantee that the proceeding against the Druses, should they be surrendered, would be conducted with all fairness and impartiality, his Highness, as appears both from Mr. Jago's reports and from the tenour of his own letter, evidently looks upon them as the sole offenders, and declines tacitly to adhere to my condition that the law should also be applied to the Moslems, who are equally responsible for the breach of the peace out of which the present grave situation originated.

Under these circumstances, I do not consider myself justified, in view of the strong bias exhibited by Midhat Pasha against the Druses, to modify the proposal which I have already made and urged upon his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 65 A.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 732.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 10, 1879.*

I HAD a very long conversation with the Sultan this afternoon. He reiterated the most solemn assurances that there was no change whatever in his policy as regards England, whom he declares he still considers his best friend and ally. He said that the orders given to the fleet to proceed to Turkish waters had caused him great concern, and had prevented his sanctioning the project for reforms submitted to him by his Ministers, because, if he did so, it would look as if he had yielded to a threat.

He wanted me to state to him, in writing, that the English fleet would not again come to Turkish waters, except at his own request, which I, of course, declined to do.

I said that all I could do would be to ask your Lordship's authority to declare formally that the orders recently given to the fleet were not intended as a menace to him.

He is to let me know to-morrow whether this will satisfy him. May I give such a declaration, should he ask for it?

He told me that he was prepared to give Baker an appointment which would satisfy Her Majesty's Government; but he did not say what appointment.

I warned him that Her Majesty's Government would not be satisfied unless Baker were given an independent command in Armenia, or in some disturbed district where he could be of real use.

Russian Ambassador is returned from Livadia, and will see Sultan to-morrow morning. As he saw His Majesty before he left last week it would seem that some special communications are going on between them. Munir Bey solemnly declares that hitherto nothing of a political character has passed.

No. 65 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 12, 1879, 6·15 P.M.*

THERE is no advantage in giving the Sultan a declaration that the orders recently given to the fleet were not intended to menace him, unless he gives you something in return. When he has placed in your hands a Firman appointing Baker to an independent command of gendarmerie in Asia Minor, the force named being not less than 5,000 men, there will be no objection to your delivering to him a written declaration such as you mention. But without such a precaution he will laugh at us.

No. 66.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1347.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 12, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches No. 916 of the 24th ultimo, and No. 921, Most Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, describing what had passed at the first official interviews which your Excellency had had with Said, Sawas, and Mahmoud Nedim Pashas, upon their accession to office in the Sultan's new Ministry.

In reply, I have to state to your Excellency that the language you have used, and the advice you have offered, to His Majesty's Ministers, is fully approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1348.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 12, 1879.*

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 27th ultimo, Very Confidential, I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Consul Eldridge my approval of his journey to Damascus in order to communicate personally with Midhat Pasha upon the instructions with which he had been furnished by your Excellency.

At the same time, I have to state that the steps you have taken to make the Sultan and his Ministers acquainted with the unfavourable impression likely to be produced in this country by the recall of Midhat Pasha from Syria, if such a measure was in contemplation, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1349.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 12, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 914 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a Report which had been sent to you by the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, on cases of outrages upon Christians and of their ill-treatment by Mussulmans, principally Kurds, in Armenia and Kurdistan. Your Excellency likewise incloses a copy of a *note verbale* which you have addressed to the Porte, remonstrating against this state of affairs, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1353.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 12, 1879.*

UNLESS the Sultan will consent to give something in return for the declaration which His Majesty wishes to obtain from your Excellency, that the orders recently given to the British fleet in the Mediterranean were not intended as a menace directed against himself, no advantage would be gained by a compliance with his wishes.

There will, however, be no objection that your Excellency should deliver to the Sultan a written declaration, such as that which is mentioned in your telegram No. 732 of the 10th instant, whenever His Majesty shall have placed in your hands a Firman appointing Baker Pasha to an independent command of gendarmerie in Asia Minor, the force named being not less than 5,000 men.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 734.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 12, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Damascus telegraphs the following to-day:—

"Druses and Hauran peasants have returned home, and the accused Druses have surrendered and been brought here. Two Chiefs have arrived, and further arrangements are being discussed. Troops not yet withdrawn."

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that this question may be considered as settled, and that the additional troops which the Governor-General asked for have been countermanded.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1355.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1879.*

YOUR action in furnishing the Porte with the tenour of the Report received from Captain Everett upon the condition of the districts of Bayazid and Alashgerd, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 919 of the 26th ultimo, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1356.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 911 of the 22nd ultimo, I have to state that I approve the sanction you have given to Major Trotter's proposal that he should himself go to Diarbekir, and that Captain Clayton should accompany the Imperial Commission which is to proceed to Mush and Van.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 38.)

Foreign Office, November 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 55, Political, of the 13th ultimo, inclosing copies of a correspondence which has passed between Archbishop Nerces, the Patriarch of the Armenians of Turkey, and yourself, and I have to state to you that I approve the letter you have addressed to his Eminence relative to the execution of Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Erzeroum, October 15, 1879.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 43, Political, of the 16th September, giving an account of a fight between Mussulmans and Christians at the village of Kiun, one hour's distance from Erzeroum, I have the honour to state that the body of an Armenian of that village, who had been mysteriously missing for the last eight days, was discovered yesterday buried in a field near the village.

The man had been murdered and the corpse had been horribly mutilated prior to interment. There can be little doubt that the deed was committed out of revenge by Moslems of the same village. No clue has as yet been found as to the perpetrators of the act. Another peculiar example of revenge has been made lately in Terjan district, near Erzingan. It will be recollected that, in my despatch No. 25, Political, of the 8th August, I stated that an Armenian of Mamakhatun had eloped with a Moslem girl. The event caused great excitement, and some twelve or fifteen Armenians were at one time in prison in connection with the affair. No traces were ever found of the fugitives, but I have good reason for stating that they escaped across the Russian frontier.

Some weeks later, *i.e.*, about three weeks ago, the Moslems had their turn, and forcibly abducted in the same district two Armenian girls, no traces of whom have yet been found, although they are believed to be kept in hiding in the district. I understand that the Vali Pasha has dismissed the Kaimakam of Terjan from his post for the part he has played in these two affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—*October* 24.—The missing girls have turned up in Erzeroum, and state that they wish to become Moslems.

H. T.

P.S. No. 2. I have the honour to inclose copy of an important despatch received from Captain Clayton just as the mail is closing. To it I would beg to draw your Lordship's special attention.

H. T.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.)

Van, October 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received information within the last few days that a considerable emigration has commenced of Armenians from Shaddakh, Mokh, and other districts of Hakkiari, and that their intention is to pass over into Russian territory. The robberies of the Kurds have not left them means of living, and they therefore find themselves obliged to leave their homes. Many deputations of villagers that have come to me lately have also protested that their present sufferings are so great that unless help comes to them speedily they will have to emigrate. I have reason to believe that the Kurds are acting purposely so as to drive away the Christians in order that they may be able to take possession of their land, and I think it is not improbable that the Turks sympathize with them secretly, if not openly.

Yesterday a deputation waited on me with an address signed by 726 of the Armenians of the city of Van, setting forth the unhappy condition of the Armenian people, and drawing attention to the non-execution, as yet, of the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. In many directions signs are not wanting that the Armenians are getting impatient, and much further delay may cause them not to be satisfied with mere reform. Sir H. Drummond Wolff's speeches have attracted a good deal of attention among them, and his use of the word "autonomy" has, I think, produced what I cannot but consider a prejudicial effect. They look to the autonomy of Bulgaria, and are beginning to dream of such an autonomy for themselves, and if reform is delayed, may call upon Russia to obtain it for them. They do not realize the difference between the two cases, and that an autonomous Armenia would be little likely to be formed, or if formed would be little likely to endure. Bulgaria was made autonomous because the Powers of Europe were not prepared to see it become Russian; but if Russia were called upon to interfere in Armenia and annexed it instead of making it autonomous, no European Power but England would be likely to object; and, as by the hypothesis reform would not have been carried out, would even England strike in?

But even if to begin with an autonomous Armenia were formed, its continuous existence would be precarious. What would be done with the large Turkish and Kurdish population? They must be a very disturbing element; and, moreover, the Armenians themselves, in my opinion, are hardly yet fit for self-government. There is a want of sturdiness in their character, and I have reason to believe that there exists party feuds amongst them which would assuredly come to the front if they found themselves in power, and the result of all these disturbing influences would be certainly chaos, and who would then prevent Russia from stepping in and settling the difficulties by installing her own authority? But the Armenians do not appreciate these considerations, and I therefore foresee danger if some measures of reform are not quickly begun. I endeavour to encourage them, and to inculcate patience as far as lies in my power; but I fear that an end will come to their patience if tried much longer.

Such an autonomy as Sir H. Drummond Wolff probably meant (though I think the word an unfortunate one, as tending to produce deluding ideas, and "decentralization" a better one) would no doubt be of great advantage; that is to say, an administration by a strong and capable Governor, not obliged to refer everything to Constantinople, with some power to employ part of the revenues of the province to its own wants, assisted by a Council composed fairly of the best men from all the races of the country, and with a sufficient force at his disposal to restrain the turbulent spirits. This would be a personal Government, it is true, but I believe such a Government to be necessary at present, though after civilization, quiet, and enlightenment have had time to produce their effect, representative Government might be introduced.

I have already mentioned in my previous despatch some details of the reforms required, but, as I said in that despatch, all improvement must originate with the central power; it must give proofs of a real desire for reform.

I would venture with the greatest diffidence to ask whether it might not be possible to unite with Russia in pressing the need of reform on the Porte. At present the Turkish Government seems inclined to play off Russia against England, but might be greatly influenced if it saw the Powers acting together. Even if the worst occurred, and the intervention failed, and Russia obtained thereby a pretext for interference by force of arms, I believe the case would be no worse than it is likely to be

now if reform is delayed, for I feel convinced that then Russia will be called on by the Armenians; and at all events, the chance of obtaining something by the joint influence of the Powers will not have been neglected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 74.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 66. Consular.)
My Lord, *Jeddah, October 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting Nashid Pasha's efforts to introduce order into the administration of this province, and to improve the sanitary condition of this town, and requesting Sir Henry Layard, on the part of Nashid Pasha, to lend him his Excellency's aid and support in all changes and reforms which require the sanction of the Supreme Government; such aid and support to be given in a manner which would not arouse the anger of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Consul Zohrab to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret and Confidential.)
Sir, *Jeddah, October 25, 1879.*

I HAVE already reported to your Excellency that the military force in this province is insufficient to maintain order and uphold the authority of the Sultan. This question formed the subject of a conversation I had with Nashid Pasha two days since. His Excellency quite agreed with me that more troops were required, and he told me he had, immediately after his arrival here, applied to the Porte for a reinforcement of two battalions of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry, but no notice whatever had been taken of his request.

His Excellency now asks me to beg your Excellency to urge on the Government the necessity of at once sending these reinforcements; but he added the Porte must not be led to suppose that the demand of your Excellency is made on his request, as that would, he well knew, be unfavourably regarded by Government.

Nashid Pasha seems anxious to do his duty properly, and to introduce changes into the administration which will result in considerable pecuniary gain to the Government. He is likewise very active, introducing ameliorations and reforms which, if carried out, must make a great and beneficial change in the sanitary condition of this province, and remove many of those causes which have rendered the Hedjaz the dread of Europe. To carry out these changes, Nashid Pasha frankly says he must have your Excellency's support, as, without it, the Porte will not listen to him; but with you to uphold him he feels confident of success. I told his Excellency that I felt certain your Excellency would give him the aid he desired, and that I would not fail to communicate his wishes, and to make it clear that they should be kept secret.

Nashid Pasha's idea is to inform your Excellency, through me, of whatever may be required from the Government, so that the pressure which may be put on the Porte may appear to have been caused by my representations.

The Hedjaz has hitherto been a source of heavy expense to the Turkish Government, and a mine of wealth to its employés who have been sent here. Firmness, energetic action, and a proper exhibition of force can change all this, and it is full time that the Porte made this change, if it desires to retain this province as an integral portion of the Empire.

Such is the opinion of Nashid Pasha, and my experience enables me to confirm it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 75.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 929. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 921, Very Confidential, of the 26th instant, I informed your Lordship that I had agreed to meet Mahmoud Nedim Pasha on the following Wednesday, in order to communicate to him the reforms which Her Majesty's Government required should be put into execution without further delay. I accordingly saw his Highness and placed in his hands a memorandum in Turkish, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

We only had time to enter fully into the question of the reforms referred to in Safvet Pasha's note of the 24th October, 1878. He expressed his entire approval of them, and his opinion that it was absolutely necessary that they should be carried out loyally and without delay.

The only one to which he made any objection was that relating to the Financial Inspectors in the provinces; not, he said, to the principle, to which he entirely agreed, but to the manner in which it was proposed to carry it out. The Porte should first, he thought, propose some definite plan for the thorough reform of the financial system throughout the Empire.

When this was once done, inspectors should be sent to the provinces to see that plan carried out; otherwise the confusion that now existed would be increased. This, however, was a mere question of time. He was urging the Sultan and his colleagues to consider the financial question at once, and the delay, he hoped, would only be for a few weeks. If, however, he added, Her Majesty's Government had received a promise from the Porte that the Financial Inspectors should be named at once, he should consider himself bound by it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Memorandum of Reforms given to Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

HER Majesty's Ambassador would first refer his Highness Mahmoud Nedim Pasha to the notes exchanged between himself and his Highness Safvet Pasha last autumn with reference to the reforms to be introduced into the Asiatic provinces of Turkey. These reforms, accepted by the Porte, were:—

1. A gendarmerie to be organized by European officers with European Inspectors.
2. The nomination of European Financial Inspectors for the vilayets.
3. The nomination of European Inspectors of the Judicial Tribunals.
4. The appointment of the Valis for a fixed period of not less than five years to their Governments.

His Majesty the Sultan proposed that two provinces should be selected to try the experiment, which, if successful, should be extended to other vilayets.

Her Majesty's Ambassador requires that this promise should be executed, and that the reforms in question should be earnestly and loyally carried out to the letter and in the spirit.

Her Majesty's Ambassador would further require that Baker Pasha, with a view to the protection of life and property in Armenia and Kurdistan, and to satisfy England and the Christian populations, should be named to a high command in Armenia and Kurdistan, as promised by the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Ambassador suggests that, with a view to giving to England a proof of its desire to treat its Christian populations with justice, and to give them their rights, it should name a Christian Governor to the Vilayet of Erzeroum. This Governor need not be an Armenian. He might be such a man as Rustem Pasha.

He would further suggest that fuller powers should be given to the Valis to enable them to administer their Governments without interference from the capital, and that Kaïmakams and Mudirs should not be forced upon them. He would insist that the difficulties which are being thrown in the way of Said Pasha, Abedin Bey, and other Commissioners in the provinces, in their endeavours to afford redress and

justice to the Christians, should be at once removed, and that they should be left at full liberty to perform their missions in accordance with the instructions which they have received.

Her Majesty's Ambassador requests that the English cases, so long outstanding, should be at once disposed of, and that the promises of the Porte with regard to the issue of the Protestant Constitution and other matters should be fulfilled without further delay.

Therapia, October 27, 1879.

No. 76.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 930.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have transmitted a translation of Colonel Wilson's despatch No. 26 of the 7th instant, on the unsatisfactory state of the Sivas Vilayet to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 77.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 939.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 3, 1879.

BOTH Colonel Wilson and Captain Cooper have reported to me the case of a certain Hadji Reouf Bey, who is stated to be a notoriously corrupt official, and who has recently been appointed Assistant Judge at Kaiserieh.

Numerous petitions have been addressed to the Turkish Government against this appointment, but Captain Cooper appeared to think that the powerful protection which Reouf Pasha is said to enjoy would enable him to retain the post.

I caused representations to be made to the Porte on the subject, and I now learn from the Ministry of Justice that Hadji Reouf Bey has been suspended from his functions, and will be brought to trial, although none of the charges brought against him have yet been proved.

I have conveyed this information to Colonel Wilson and Captain Cooper.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 78.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 947.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 4, 1879.

AFTER long-protracted negotiations with the Sultan and successive Ministries, lasting over many months, for the withdrawal of the declaration given to His Majesty by me on the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention of the 4th June, 1878, and having in vain insisted upon an answer from the Porte to the proposal contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 195 of the 12th February last for the exchange of declarations, I delivered to the new Minister for Foreign Affairs on the recent change of Government the declaration which I was instructed by your Lordship to present to the Turkish Government.

Sawas Pasha, in whose hands I placed it, accompanied by the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, endeavoured to induce me not to insist upon his accepting it so soon after his nomination to office, but to give him time to consider the matter, with which he was not fully acquainted, in order to enable him to come to some arrangement with me.

I refused, however, to do so, on the ground that I had been so frequently

deceived by his predecessors, who had constantly put me off with promises never to be fulfilled, that I could no longer delay putting into execution your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

Therapia, October 22, 1879.

ON the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention entered into between Her Majesty the Queen and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan on the 4th June, 1878, His Imperial Majesty obtained from the Undersigned, Her Majesty's Ambassador, a Declaration which did not meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. He was consequently instructed either to withdraw it, or, in the event of His Imperial Majesty refusing to return it, to effect with the Porte the exchange of a Declaration, of which a copy was long ago delivered by him to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Should he be unable to do either, the Undersigned was instructed by Her Majesty's Government to present a further Declaration to the Porte, of which a copy was also communicated by him to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Many months have now elapsed without the Undersigned having been able to obtain any answer from the Porte to his repeated and urgent representations on this subject.

He can therefore no longer delay carrying out the instructions of his Government, and he has the honour of delivering the inclosed Declaration to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and of requesting him to acknowledge the receipt of it.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 951. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 5, 1879.

ON the 29th ultimo the Constantinople newspapers published a telegram from London, stating that the English fleet had received orders to sail for Turkish waters, and that it would leave Malta on the 5th of this month. This announcement naturally caused considerable sensation, and as I had every reason to believe that it had reached the ears of the Sultan, I sent Sir Alfred Saudison to the Palace, and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to give such explanations as might be required.

In the meanwhile I received a letter from Munir Bey, of which I inclose a copy, informing me, on the part of His Majesty, that Musurus Pasha had telegraphed to the Porte that your Lordship was very much "préoccupé" with the change of Ministry at Constantinople, and that on his assurances that this change would in no way affect the policy of Turkey as regards Europe, your Lordship had simply answered that you would not decide until you had learnt my opinion on the subject.

His Majesty, Munir Bey adds, being struck by your Lordship's language, had directed him to tell me that after all that His Majesty had said to me with respect to his settled opinions, he believed that Her Majesty's Government could have no doubt on the subject.

Shortly after this letter reached me, Munir Bey himself called on the part of the Sultan to ask me about the statement about the fleet that had appeared in the newspapers. He said that His Majesty had heard from Sir A. Saudison my explanations of the reasons for the English fleet being sent to Turkish waters with the greatest astonishment; that His Majesty was excessively irritated at the step taken by Her Majesty's Government, considering it as an occupation of his territory

which there was absolutely nothing to justify; and that he had been directed by His Majesty to request me to ask Her Majesty's Government, by telegraph, to countermand the orders given to the fleet. Munir Bey further informed me that he had been desired by His Majesty to state that, if I did not receive an answer from Her Majesty's Government in the affirmative by Friday morning, His Majesty would be compelled to adopt such measures as he might consider necessary to meet this act of hostility on the part of England.

I asked him what His Majesty meant by this threat? He answered that, although he was not authorized to tell me so, he had every reason to believe that in the event of Her Majesty's Government refusing to stop the fleet, the Sultan would "throw himself into the arms" of Russia.

To the Sultan's request that I should ask your Lordship, by telegraph, to countermand the orders given to the fleet, I replied that on my representing to your Lordship some months ago that His Majesty had given me a distinct promise to introduce the reforms Her Majesty's Government required into Asia Minor, and that he had led me to believe that he would name Baker Pasha to a high command in Armenia, your Lordship had consented to stop Her Majesty's ships which were then coming to Besika Bay. A long time had passed, and these promises not having been fulfilled, I did not feel justified in again interfering. Moreover, His Majesty would remember that, acting upon instructions from your Lordship, I had distinctly warned him that if Mahmoud Nedim Pasha were named Grand Vizier, or appointed to a high post in the Government, the policy of England as regards Turkey would necessarily change. Under these circumstances, I said, I could only submit to your Lordship, by telegraph, His Majesty's message to me, without, however, holding out any hope that Her Majesty's Government would reverse their decision. I suggested that if His Majesty desired to make any further representations on the subject to your Lordship, they should be addressed to you through the Turkish Ambassador in London.

After Munir Bey had left me Sir A. Sandison returned from the Palace. He had not seen the Sultan, who appeared to be very angry and very much frightened, but had received a message from him to the effect that, in signing the Cyprus Convention, he did so on the understanding and in the conviction that his sovereign rights would be respected; but that as England was now determined to impose upon him by force the execution of reforms in Asia Minor, and the appointment of Baker Pasha, he should have to seek the means of defending his Empire. England had evidently the intention, His Majesty added, of treating Turkey as a kind o Afghanistan; but that she should not so easily be allowed to do so.

I telegraphed to your Lordship, on the night of the 29th ultimo, the substance of what had passed between the Sultan and myself in this matter.

On Thursday Munir Bey wrote me a further letter by order of the Sultan (of which I inclose a copy), requesting me to obtain an answer from Her Majesty's Government by Friday to His Majesty's demand that the fleet should not come to Besika Bay.

In the evening his Excellency called upon me and met Sawas Pasha, who also came to me on the part of the Sultan, to urge me to telegraph to your Lordship to countermand the orders to the fleet. The Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he had been directed by His Majesty to put two questions to me. First, whether the fleet was to be sent to Besika Bay as a menace to coerce him to put into execution the reforms required by Her Majesty's Government, and, if so, upon what grounds; and, secondly, supposing that His Majesty refused to yield to the menace, what did Her Majesty's Government intend to do? I answered that I had received no information or instructions from your Lordship as to the movements of the fleet, and that the opinion I had expressed as to the probable reasons for its approaching appearance in Besika Bay was merely a personal one, given to warn His Majesty of the consequences of the neglect of the Porte to perform its engagements, founded upon the Convention of the 4th June, and upon Salvet Pasha's note of the 24th October, 1878, and that, as regards the course that Her Majesty's Government was prepared to take, in the event of His Majesty refusing to yield to the menace, I was unable to give him any reply, as I had no right to assume that it was a menace, and had received no instructions from your Lordship in the matter.

Sawas Pasha, having made a note of my answers, said that he wished to make a personal appeal to me. He observed that the announcement that the English fleet was coming to Turkish waters had caused the Sultan the greatest indignation

and alarm, and that acting under a feeling of great irritation His Majesty might take some step which would have the gravest consequences. It was unfair to His Majesty, he went on to say, that this determination should have been taken by Her Majesty's Government just as a new Ministry had been formed, which was resolved to proceed, with the least possible delay, to put into execution the promised reforms, and were actually dealing with the question already; and equally unfair to the Ministers themselves that they should not be allowed time and opportunity to give proofs of their desire to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. If, after waiting a little, Her Majesty's Government had found that nothing had been done, they might then have resorted to the threat of sending the fleet to Besika Bay. He, for one, would have approved of such a course, and the pressure thus brought to bear would, he believed, have had its effect. But now, "instead of holding the loaded blunderbuss at the head of the Porte we are going to fire it off." What were we prepared to do next? If the Sultan were to refuse to make any concession, or to introduce the reforms we asked for in face of this attempt at coercion, he would be supported by unanimous Mussulman public opinion. I must remember that he was Caliph as well as Sultan. He would be further encouraged to resist by France, Russia, and other Powers who were jealous of English influence in the East. He entreated me, therefore, to telegraph to your Lordship to stop the fleet from coming to Besika Bay.

I replied that, presuming Her Majesty's Government had ordered the fleet to Turkish waters as a threat, of which I had no official information, they had no doubt taken the consequences into full consideration; I therefore declined to interfere. As regards the Porte's promises to introduce reforms, they had been made so frequently, and had been so persistently broken, that Her Majesty's Government could no longer place any faith in them. Nothing had been seriously done to put an end to the anarchy which prevailed in Asia Minor, and to the oppression and outrages to which its Christian populations were exposed. Her Majesty's Government could not permit such a state of things to continue. Although it might be their policy to maintain the Turkish rule in Asia, they could not support a Government which was condemned by English public opinion for gross ill-treatment of its Christian subjects.

Munir Bey, by order of the Sultan, asked me what were the reforms that Her Majesty's Government required of him. His Majesty begged me to consider that he had already commenced with those which he had pledged himself to put into execution. He was ready to come to a satisfactory understanding with Her Majesty's Government with regard to such further reforms as they required. He had appointed some Europeans to be financial inspectors; he had named judicial inspectors to all the vilayets, and English officers were about to be sent to the provinces to organize the gendarmerie, which, by my own admission, had made some progress at Damascus and Adrianople. What more did Her Majesty's Government require?

I begged Munir Bey to state to His Majesty from me that, fully admitting His Majesty's good intentions, I must tell him frankly that the so-called reforms which he had brought to my notice had not been carried out loyally; that the Europeans who had been employed had no independent or effective powers; and that what had been done was, I regretted to say, merely to throw dust in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government. What Her Majesty's Government required was the execution of the reforms promised in Safvet Pasha's note of the 24th October, 1878, in the spirit and to the letter. To this His Majesty and the Porte had solemnly engaged themselves, and nothing less would satisfy England. I had, further, great reason to complain, I said, of want of straightforwardness on the part of His Majesty in the matter of the appointment of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha. His Majesty had seen me two days before it had been made; yet, although well aware of the feelings of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and, after having led me to understand that he had no intention of recalling Mahmoud Nedim Pasha to power, he had named him to the most important post in the Ministry, without giving me a hint of his intention. I could not but consider, after the confidence with which His Majesty had so long honoured me, that this proceeding on his part showed a want of sincerity that was very much to be deplored.

Munir Bey promised to repeat textually to the Sultan what I had said, and then joined Sawas Pasha in entreating me to do as His Majesty requested me, and to telegraph to your Lordship at once not to send the fleet into Turkish waters, as His Majesty attached the greatest importance to the matter. I declined, however,

to do more than to convey to your Lordship His Majesty's request, without recommending its acceptance. At the same time I would venture, I said, to ask your Lordship to stop the fleet coming as far as Besika Bay until I could submit to you by the next messenger the reasons that they had given me against the decision of Her Majesty's Government. I accordingly telegraphed in that sense to your Lordship on the evening of the 31st ultimo.

On the morning of the 1st instant I received your Lordship's two telegrams (Nos. 271 and 273) of the previous day, informing me of the reasons for which Her Majesty's fleet had been ordered to Vourla, and instructing me to represent to the Sultan "that the feeling in England as to the insufficiency of the promises is very strong, and is fully shared by Her Majesty's Government, and that much as you (I) sympathize with Turkey, you (I) will be powerless to prevent disastrous consequences."

I may observe that when I received the first notice of the movements of the fleet from Sir G. Hornby on the 25th ultimo, he informed me that he had received orders to proceed to Vourla or Besika with the squadron as soon as it was ready. I beg to inclose copy of his telegram and of my reply, stating that I had suggested to Her Majesty's Government that he should first come to Vourla, and then communicate with me before going to Besika.

As I had learnt that the Sultan was much excited and greatly irritated in consequence of no answer having been returned by Friday morning to his request that the orders to the fleet to proceed to Turkish waters should be countermanded, and that he was not unlikely to take some step which might lead to serious complications, I sent Sir Alfred Sandison at once to the Palace with a message to His Majesty, which, to avoid mistakes, I gave him in writing, only, however, *pro memorid*. I have the honour to inclose a copy of my memorandum.

Sir A. Sandison did not see His Majesty, but received an answer from him through Munir Bey to the following effect:—

"That the decision of Her Majesty's Government to send the fleet to Turkish waters was considered by the Sultan as an occupation of his territory, and as consequently an insult to himself, and an attack upon the honour and independence of the Turkish nation. His Majesty would, therefore, do all in his power to prevent the arrival of the British fleet in Turkish waters; and, as the fact of its being sent into them was a menace directed against Constantinople, he would never authorize its passage through the Dardanelles.

"That everything was to be obtained from His Majesty in a spirit of conciliation, but nothing by force. His Majesty expects a categorical answer as to the arrival or non-arrival of the fleet by Monday (the 3rd) at 4 o'clock in the morning, Turkish time (about 9 A.M.), and begs the Ambassador to be the bearer of it himself.

"That England deceives herself strangely if she thinks to impose her will by threats, which, if put into execution, would have the most disastrous consequences. His Majesty says this with a bleeding heart.

"His Majesty believes that he has given England too many proofs of his friendship for her that she should suppose that a Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, or any other person, could make him change his policy. His Majesty cannot permit that his word on this subject should be doubted. His Majesty asks if all that he has done hitherto, including the Cyprus Convention, is to be attributed to Said Pasha and Safvet Pasha, and not to his sympathy for England?

"The step taken by England can only make her enemies rejoice.

"As regards the appointment of Baker Pasha, His Majesty has frequently spoken on the subject to his Ministers, who have opposed it. Certain Ministers may probably have represented the matter differently to the Ambassador.

"It is in order that there should be no misconception ("malentendu") that His Majesty has changed his Ministers, and it was after having obtained a written Declaration, by which they engage themselves to put into execution the reforms, that he named their successors.

"Two or three days after they took measures for the reform of the finances, and they had, naturally, set to work upon the other reforms.

"In the face of all this, Her Majesty's Government had no cause for coming to the resolution they have now taken, which His Majesty considers as dangerous.

"If England will recall her decision, His Majesty will be greatly delighted. If she will not, he must naturally seek his own safety."

I inclose the memorandum, in French, which Sir A. Sandison made of the Sultan's message, as delivered to him by Munir Bey.

Before Sir A. Sandison had returned from the Palace Sawas Pasha again called upon me. He said that the state of the Sultan's mind was such that he might take some desperate measure which would lead to very grave consequences; that he had been persuaded that the fleet was coming up to the Bosphorus, and that his personal safety was in danger; and that advantage was being taken of his fears to induce him to appeal to Russia.

His Excellency, however, solemnly assured me that His Majesty had not yet done so. Although Prince Lobanoff had seen him in the morning before leaving for Livadia, his Excellency implored me to telegraph to your Lordship to keep the fleet for fifteen or twenty days more at Malta.

If Her Majesty's Government would do this, it would calm the mind of the Sultan; he could be induced to listen to the advice of his Ministers to put the reforms into execution without delay, and he had every reason to hope that Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied. If within the time he mentioned nothing were done, then the fleet could be ordered to Vourla or Besika.

After a very long discussion I yielded to Sawas Pasha's entreaties, and sent your Lordship my telegram No. 723, very earnestly requesting your Lordship to delay the departure of the fleet from Malta. I did so in the hope that, if Her Majesty's Government consented, the Sultan, being now thoroughly alarmed, would carry out the promises he has so repeatedly made to me, and in the fear lest, if the fleet arrived at once at Vourla or Besika Bay, His Majesty might take some resolution which might have the effect of causing Her Majesty's Government very serious embarrassment.

I have not been in further communication either with the Sultan or Sawas Pasha on this subject. I have only learnt that by the direction of His Majesty a telegram was sent to Musurus Pasha to make the same representations to your Lordship as the Minister for Foreign Affairs had made to me, and that his Excellency had replied that he had been unable to see your Lordship, as you were in the country, which seems to have displeased His Majesty.

Information reaches me, from a trustworthy source, that the persons in the Palace and others, to whom may be attributed the fatal policy which His Majesty has of late pursued, have succeeded in persuading him that England is now about to carry out the design, which they pretend she has long meditated, of annexing Asia Minor and Syria, and with which they connect my recent visit to the latter province.

They have also, I understand, induced him to believe that the English fleet is to come up to Constantinople, and that he is in personal danger. Unfortunately, His Majesty, in his present frame of mind, will believe anything; and neither facts nor arguments have any weight with him. Fear and irritation have brought him into that same mental condition in which I have before seen him, and which I have had occasion to describe to your Lordship.

I have this morning received your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, informing me that, on the distinct assurances of Musurus Pasha that there should be no change in the foreign policy of Turkey, that reforms should be introduced without delay, and that Baker Pasha should be appointed to an independent command of gendarmerie, your Lordship had agreed to suspend the departure of the fleet from Malta for the moment.

I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to communicate to Sawas Pasha the substance of your Lordship's telegram, in order that there may be no mistake or misunderstanding as to what passed between your Lordship and the Turkish Ambassador, who sometimes, I have reason to believe, does not accurately report what your Lordship may have said to him.

I shall also avail myself of any opportunity that I may have of making a similar communication to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Munir Bey to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le 30 Octobre, 1879.

Chère Excellence,

MUSURUS PASHA télégraphie à la Porte que dans une conversation qu'il a eue dernièrement avec Lord Salisbury, celui-ci s'est montré très-préoccupé du changement Ministériel qui a eu lieu à Constantinople. Notre Ambassadeur a donné à sa Seigneurie toutes les assurances que ce changement ne pouvait influer en aucune façon sur la marche suivie par la Turquie en ce qui concerne sa politique avec l'Europe; mais le Ministre de la Reine s'est borné à conclure qu'il ne pouvait se prononcer qu'après avoir reçu l'avis de votre Excellence au sujet du changement en question.

Sa Majesté Impériale, frappée de ce language, me charge de dire à votre Excellence qu'à la suite de tout ce qu'elle vous a dit relativement à ses opinions arrêtées, elle pensait qu'il ne subsisterait aucune préoccupation dans l'esprit du Gouvernement Anglais.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) MUNIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Munir Bey to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le 30 Octobre, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN confirmant ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de dire hier soir à votre Excellence, et vu l'approche du jour fixé pour le départ de la flotte Anglaise, j'ai l'ordre de la prier de provoquer absolument une réponse de son Gouvernement jusqu'à demain Vendredi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) MUNIR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to Sir A. H. Layard.

Malta, October 25, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received orders to proceed to Vourla or Besika with squadron as soon as ready. Hope to sail about 5th November. Will that be soon enough? Please engage Mr. Jenner as interpreter.

Inclosure 4 in No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Therapia, October 26, 1879, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I THINK that if you leave November 5 it will be soon enough, but I am not acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government. I have suggested to them that you should come first to Vourla, and then communicate with me before going to Besika. I think this important. Jenner will be engaged for you.

Inclosure 5 in No. 79.

Memorandum by Sir A. Sandison.

(Confidentielle.)

LA décision du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, d'envoyer la flotte dans les eaux Turques est considérée par le Sultan comme une occupation et par conséquent une insulte à lui-même, et une atteinte portée à l'honneur et l'indépendance de la nation Turque. Sa Majesté ferait par conséquent tout au monde pour empêcher l'arrivée de la flotte dans les eaux Turques, et que comme son envoi est

une menace dirigée contre Constantinople, il n'autorisera jamais son passage par les Dardanelles.

Qu'on obtient tout de Sa Majesté par l'esprit de conciliation mais rien par la force.

Sa Majesté attend une réponse formelle sur l'arrivée ou la non-arrivée de la flotte Lundi (après-demain), à 4 heures du matin à la Turque (8 heures), et prie l'Ambassadeur de la lui apporter lui-même.

Que l'Angleterre soit convaincue qu'elle se trompe étrangement si elle croit pouvoir imposer sa volonté par des menaces lesquelles, si elles venaient à être exécutées, auraient les conséquences les plus désastreuses. Sa Majesté le déclare le cœur seignant.

Il croit avoir donné à l'Angleterre assez de preuves d'attachement pour qu'elle croie maintenant qu'un Mahmoud Nedim ou un autre puisse lui faire changer de politique. Sa Majesté tient à ce qu'on ne doute pas de sa parole à cet égard. Sa Majesté ajoute que tout ce qu'elle a fait jusqu'à présent, entre autre la Convention de Chypre, sont donc l'œuvre de Saïd Pacha et de Safvet Pacha, et non pas la conséquence de sa sympathie pour l'Angleterre?

Le procédé de l'Angleterre ne fera que réjouir ses ennemis.

Quant à Baker Pacha, il a à plusieurs reprises abordé la question avec ses Ministres, qui s'y sont opposés. D'un autre côté, certains Ministres représentaient peut-être les choses à l'Ambassadeur d'une autre façon.

C'est pour qu'il n'y ait pas de malentendu qu'il a changé les Ministres, et c'est à la suite d'une déclaration écrite comme quoi ces derniers s'engageraient à entreprendre l'exécution des réformes, qu'il les a nommé. Trois ou quatres jours après, des mesures formelles furent prises pour la réforme financière, et naturellement ils s'étaient aussi mis à l'œuvre pour le reste des réformes.

En présence de tout ceci le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'avait pas sujet de prendre la détermination d'aujourd'hui, que Sa Majesté considère comme dangereuse.

Si l'Angleterre revient sur sa décision Sa Majesté en sera enchantée. Dans le cas contraire, on trouvera naturel qu'il cherche son salut.

(Signé) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, le 1er Novembre, 1879.

No. 80.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November* 14.)

Angora, October 25, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency of the constant recurrences of highway robberies in this province, the occurrences of this nature that have taken place lately being close to this city.

On Sunday, the 4th current, a party of four natives of Istanos, a town 24 miles distant from this place, were proceeding homeward, taking with them a mule-load of merchandize, purchased in the Angora market. At a fountain half-way to their destination, where they had stopped to rest, they were overtaken by a Circassian "araba," or cart, from which four travellers descended, who appeared from their costume to be Roumeliotes or war refugees. The "araba," having discharged its passengers, returned rapidly in the direction of the city, whilst the refugees entered into conversation with the travellers, and insisted on accompanying them on their way. As they all carried arms, this escort was not very agreeable to the Istanoslis, but they submitted, and they went on together for 8 miles further. Within a few miles of their destination, and dusk having set in, the refugees made a sudden rush on their fellow-travellers, bound their arms, rifled their pockets, and, carrying off with them the loaded mule, beat a hasty retreat in the opposite direction, the darkness, of course, favouring their escape. The loss of the travellers amounts to £T. 25 in money and valuables and £T. 80 worth of merchandize.

The victims of such outrages are so convinced of the incapacity or unwillingness of the authorities to discover or punish such brigands, that it is with difficulty that I can induce them to lodge a formal complaint with the police authorities, and, although I have repeatedly urged these officers to discover and make an example of the perpetrators of this impudent robbery close to the city, I regret to have to add

that my remonstrances have in this instance failed in producing any result. The driver of the "araba" (who, there is good reason to believe, was an accomplice) was discovered, imprisoned, and interrogated, but, for some unexplained reason, was liberated, and allowed also to make his escape. It is openly asserted that the chief officers of police had good reasons of their own for not desiring to carry the inquiry any further.

On the 9th October current, an agent of one of the principal mercantile houses here, called Panasoglou, returning from the town of Sivrihissar at the close of the season there, and bringing with him his books, accounts, and £T. 90 in specie, whilst resting at a "devrent," or guard-house, at a place called "Tash Kopru," near the Sakaria River, fifteen hours, or 60 miles, from Angora, was overtaken by a band of mounted Circassians, nine in number, with faces partially masked or concealed, who rode suddenly up and pounced upon the traveller and the soldier in charge of the guard-house before they had time to get ready the arms with which they were provided. They soon possessed themselves of all the traveller had with him, but, on the allegation that he had managed to conceal a further sum of money, they subjected him to something like torture to force him to reveal where the money was secreted. Tightly bound from head to foot, they passed their knives over his throat. This leading to no result, they carried him to the brink of the river, which at that spot is very deep, holding him over the current threatening to drown him. Another body of travellers appearing in the distance, they dropped their victim and took flight, taking the traveller's horse with them. The unfortunate victim arrived in town a few days later half dead with fright, his swollen wrists and ankles and wounded throat showing unmistakable proofs of the rough handling to which he had been subjected. From the description of the brigands, this seems to be the same band that recently robbed some American travellers in the same neighbourhood, details of which occurrence were given in my last Report.

In this last case the authorities have shown more energy, zaptiehs from Angora and from Sivrihissar having been sent in pursuit.

Captain Cooper, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls for Anatolia, reached Angora on Saturday, the 10th October, and spent three days here. The object of his visit was to call the attention of the Governor-General and other vilayet officials to the many abuses and irregularities of the Local Government of Kaisery, where he resides, and also to inform the Provincial Government with regard to the many unauthorized and illegal proceedings of the Kaimakams of Boghazlian and Sungourlou and the Mutessarif of Yozgat, through which he had passed on his way hither.

I found Captain Cooper's presence here a great support and help to me in the many official remonstrances which I am compelled to make with regard to the legal, financial, and police administration of the province, all of which at present seem to be out of joint.

In the numerous official and semi-official visits Captain Cooper and myself made and received on the officials and notables of the various communities, we were both struck with the wholesome dread all administrators seem to have of Consular supervision, their evident desire to do what they could to rectify abuses, and the hearty good-will shown and good wishes expressed by members of all communities towards us personally for the success of our efforts.

This state of feeling induces me to venture the suggestion that rapid and constant travelling throughout the province would do much to make such official supervision more effective than it has been hitherto, and, should this suggestion meet with your Excellency's approval, I should have much pleasure in undertaking the increased duties and responsibilities it would involve.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 80[7].

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 53. Political.)

Aleih, October 20, 1870.

My Lord,

I REFRAINED from reporting to your Lordship the effect produced by the recent journey through Syria of his Excellency Sir Henry Layard until I received

information from the various outlying districts. This was not complete till about ten days ago, when I was prevented from reporting on this subject owing to my journey last week to Damascus, which I have already mentioned in previous despatches.

According to what I gather from different parts of Syria, the general effect of this tour was excellent.

His Excellency was everywhere received with great respect, cordiality, and even enthusiasm by the authorities, as well as by all classes of the population.

The inhabitants of the towns of Beyrout and Damascus, through their respective municipalities, offered to Her Majesty's Representative their hospitality, of which his Excellency was pleased to avail himself, to the great and general satisfaction of his hosts, who were delighted with his affability and general amiability of manners, as well as struck with the soundness of the advice he gave them.

No doubt his Excellency has already furnished your Lordship with his own impressions of the state of affairs in Syria, and I have the honour to inclose, for your further information, three numbers of the "Hadikat-el-Achbar," the semi-official journal of Beyrout, giving a detailed account of the progress of Her Majesty's Ambassador through the country. It is, I believe, substantially correct, though I consider it my duty to add to the Report, contained in No. 1102 of the 9th instant, on the proceedings at Bteddin, that the palace of the Maronite Bishop Bistany (who was the object of a long correspondence during the last and the early part of this year) was most brilliantly illuminated during both nights his Excellency remained at Bteddin, and that it was mainly owing to the influence of the Bishop that the inhabitants of Dur-el-Kamar were so enthusiastic in their demonstrations of welcome. I report this fact with the greater pleasure, as it seems to show that the Bishop does not bear ill-will towards us on account of his exile to Jerusalem.

I abstained from accompanying Sir Henry Layard during his progress through my district, partly on account of the feeble state of my health, which I feared would prevent me from supporting the fatigues and excitement of the journey, but chiefly, as I explained to his Excellency, in order to enable him to hear with his own ears and see with his own eyes the actual state of affairs in that important province. As I have had the honour to be Her Majesty's principal Consular officer here during the last sixteen and a-half years, my presence would not unnaturally have had a certain influence over many of the persons with whom his Excellency came in contact, owing to my intimate acquaintance with them during so many years. As I thought it important that his Excellency's judgment should be entirely uninfluenced, and as I had no reason to be afraid of what others might say behind my back, I adopted this course, of which Sir Henry was pleased to express his approbation, and which I trust will also meet with your Lordship's approval.

Mr. Esper Shoucair, the First Dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate-General, however, accompanied Her Majesty's Representative as Interpreter, from the time he arrived at Beyrout, on the 23rd ultimo, until his departure, on the 3rd instant, and his Excellency expressed to me in the warmest terms his appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him, as well as of his general capacity, intelligence, activity, and knowledge of the country and people. Having had ample experience of these qualities, as well as of his probity and devotion to the public service, during upwards of four years, I venture to take this opportunity to recommend him to your Lordship for some substantial proof of the recognition due to his faithful services.

The visit of Her Majesty's Ambassador has given rise to exaggerated hopes as to the future prospects of reforms in Syria, and to remarks and comments, many of which are absurd and even ridiculous.

Some interpret it to mean that England is about to take possession of the country, as a part of the programme which led to the occupation of Cyprus, and most parties ardently desire that this may be the true object of his Excellency's mission here.

Others say that there is an understanding between England and France that the former should occupy Syria and the latter Palestine, and it was even rumoured amongst the Moslems of one of the towns in the north that a French fleet with troops had arrived at Acre to take possession of Palestine, and anticipate the English in their occupation of Syria.

Since the recent troubles in the Hauran (already reported), it has been openly stated, especially at Damascus, that they occurred at the instigation of Sir Henry

Layard, who was anxious, by these means, to create a situation which would render necessary an occupation of the country.

In answer to this surmise I have pointed out, on every available occasion, that had Her Majesty's Government any desire to foment disturbances in order to profit by them in this way, a district nearer the sea and more easy of access (the Lebanon, for instance) would have been chosen to carry out their intentions, and that had any such intentions existed, they would have been prepared with a much larger force than half a battalion of troops in Cyprus, and would certainly not have sent the Mediterranean squadron to Malta. These arguments, though they are admitted to have some weight, are far from enforcing conviction on the minds of impulsive Syrians, whose superficial education renders them frequently unfit to form a sound judgment.

The visit, *incognito*, of Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the northern ports of Syria, on board Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," immediately after the departure of Sir Henry Layard, rather served to confirm the conclusions arrived at by the natives of Syria, as reported above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1377.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 15, 1879.

I HAVE to state to you that the statement which has appeared in Reuter's telegram, dated Malta, the 12th November, that the British fleet would proceed eastwards from that place in four days, is not true, and has been publicly contradicted here.

I have told Musurus Pasha that Her Majesty's Government must insist upon having from the Sultan an immediate authorization for the reforms in the Asiatic provinces, which have been promised to them by His Majesty. We did not expect that any great results would be achieved at once; but, at least, we had a right to require some step in advance as a proof of good faith. In this view I urged the nomination of some European officer—Baker Pasha had often been mentioned—as a commander of gendarmerie there. I also said that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of menacing the Sultan at present, and that I would warn his Excellency before the fleet was moved; but I said that I could give no undertaking that England would not resort to active measures if the Turkish Government continued to disregard the promises it had made.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 82.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 961. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum by Dragoman Marinich of some remarks made to him by the Sheikh-ul-Islam, who, as your Lordship is aware, is the highest religious authority in the Empire on the subject of the reforms to be introduced into Turkey, and of the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to this country.

Your Lordship will, I think, read them with interest.

As according to "etiquette" the Sheikh-ul-Islam, like the Pope, cannot call even upon an Ambassador, or certainly would not make the first call, I am not personally acquainted with him. As, however, he seems desirous of assisting me in my endeavours to obtain the execution of the reforms we require, and to support our policy, I shall endeavour to have a private interview with him. It is worthy of remark that the two highest and most influential Mahommedan dignitaries in the Empire, the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Grand Sheriff of Mecca (as your Lordship is informed by Consul Zahrab), should show so friendly a feeling towards England. Considering our vast Mussulman population in India, and our relations with the Mahommedan States in Central Asia, it appears to me to be important that this feeling should be encouraged and cultivated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 82.

M. Marinich to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidentielle.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Péra, le 6 Novembre*, 1879.

M'ÉTANT rendu auprès de Sheik-ul-Islam pour le prier de vouloir bien faire sanctionner une sentence du Chéri rendue à Alep, concernant le terrain où est bâti le Consulat de Sa Majesté, son Altesse, au moment de prendre congé, faisant allusion au retour de la flotte Anglaise dans les eaux Ottomanes, m'a tenu le langage suivant, avec prière expresse d'en rendre compte à votre Excellence:

"Nous serions bien ingrats si nous hésitions à reconnaître les services signalés que Sir H. Layard a rendus au Gouvernement Impérial, et l'amitié sincère et le dévouement dont il a fait preuve en maintes occasions envers notre auguste Souverain, qui a toujours accueilli avec déférence et respect les sages et précieux conseils du digne Représentant de la Grande Bretagne, que des liens séculiers unissent à l'Empire Ottoman.

"Ces circonstances m'encouragent à dire que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne devrait pas avoir recours à des mesures qui feraient peut-être croire qu'il n'est plus animé envers le Gouvernement du Sultan d'aussi bons sentiments qu'autrefois. L'Angleterre doit être fermement convaincue que moi le premier et avec moi tout le Ministère, nous voulons sincèrement l'exécution des réformes dont le pays a besoin, et que la Turquie n'a eu jusqu'ici aucun Souverain qui ait désiré l'application des réformes autant que le Sultan actuel. L'Ambassadeur doit en être persuadé autant que nous, puisqu'il a eu souvent l'occasion d'accueillir les assurances que le Sultan en personne lui a réitérées à cet égard. L'Ambassadeur ainsi que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne doivent pas perdre de vue que les retards apportés jusqu'ici à l'exécution de ces mêmes réformes sont dus non pas au mauvais vouloir du Gouvernement Ottoman ou de son Souverain, mais bien à la nécessité de faire des réformes qui soient de nature à concilier tous les besoins du pays avec les mœurs et coutumes des diverses races qui peuplent la Turquie, et pouvoir satisfaire en même temps l'Europe, surtout l'Angleterre, dont la bienveillance et l'amitié envers l'Empire Ottoman sont connues *ab antiquo*.

"Sir H. Layard, qui a été un véritable père pour nous, et qui est actuellement beaucoup mieux au courant de la situation que le pays traverse que son [Gouvernement?], lequel voit les choses de loin, et ne saurait pouvoir les apprécier au même jour que ceux qui les touchent de près devrait, sinon tracer la voie à suivre, du moins modifier, selon les circonstances, les vues de son Gouvernement à l'égard de la Turquie. Nous attendons tout ce service de Sir Henry Layard, dont nous reconnaissons l'amitié sincère et tout l'attachement pour le pays. Veuillez lui dire que c'est moi qui le prie instamment d'agir ainsi. Si j'ose le prier c'est que j'ai eu l'occasion d'être souvent en contact avec Lord Stratford de Redcliffe et Rechid Pacha, et j'ai pu suivre attentivement la politique de ces deux grands hommes d'État. Combien de fois n'ai-je pas vu alors l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre se rendre aux explications du Grand Vizir et écrire en conséquence à son Gouvernement. Sir H. Layard sait mieux que tout autre, qu'une des principales difficultés de la situation c'est le manque absolu d'argent, contre lequel nous sommes obligés de lutter. En tout cas nous voulons réformer le pays; il ne faudrait pas cependant nous presser trop, surtout ne pas prêter l'oreille à des préventions qui peuvent nous être funestes. Il importe avant tout de nous donner le temps matériel d'exécuter nos réformes qui seront imparfaites, et ne pourront pas satisfaire ceux qui les demandent. Quant à moi, je suis prêt à jurer que je désire sincèrement et ardemment les réformes. Je tiens à ce que Sir H. Layard le sache, et je vous prie aussi de lui dire que je me mets entièrement à sa disposition. Je m'estimerai heureux de pouvoir lui être utile s'il voudra recourir à mes bons offices.

"Comme vous m'avez toujours inspiré de la confiance et de l'estime, j'ai voulu profiter de votre entremise pour tenir à son Excellence ce langage, qui n'est guidé

par aucune arrière-pensée, mais uniquement par le désir de servir les intérêts de mon Souverain et ceux de son ancien ami et allié, l'Angleterre."

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 966.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Gatheral, British Vice-Consul at Angora, pointing out the advantages which would result from establishing postal and telegraphic communication between that town and Sivrihissar, an important place to the south-west of Angora. I have brought the matter to the notice of the Porte, as suggested by Mr. Gatheral.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Angora, November 1, 1879.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that I have been requested by the principal merchants of the town of Sivrihissar, and the merchants resident here who have commercial relations with that town, to give them some official countenance and assistance in having that town connected with Angora by means of post and telegraph.

Sivrihissar is a populous and important town, only 78 miles to the south-west of Angora. It has been of late years greatly increased in importance as a market town for the purchase and sale of wool, mohair, opium, grain, &c., and several British merchants have resident agents there. There is absolutely no means of communicating with agents or correspondents there except by means of special messengers, which costs 3*l.* in money and five days in time, thus greatly restricting commerce of every kind. The absence of means of communication paralyzes government, and many abuses occur in consequence. The region between Angora and Sivrihissar has, in consequence, become a haunt of brigands, as they are comparatively safe from pursuit and capture whilst concealed there.

I have, accordingly, handed the Governor-General an official memorandum on the subject, to which he has promised his immediate attention, and, at his Excellency's suggestion, I forward your Excellency three copies of that memorandum, in the hope that, should you think proper to do so, you will forward them to the First Minister, the Minister of Public Works, and the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Haider Effendi, respectively. I may add, in further reference, that no engineering difficulties exist, with the single exception of crossing the Sakaria River, the entire region being flat table-land. At my suggestion, the Sivrihissar merchants have added to their petition a list of subscriptions towards the expense of the undertaking, the total reaching £T. 150. There would be no difficulty in raising £T. 300 additional in Angora and Constantinople, should want of funds be alleged as a reason for neglecting this most essential public work. Should your Excellency think proper to make representations to the Ministry of Public Works on this subject, the opportunity would be a good one to call the attention of that Department to the ruinous condition of the Hyder bridge over the Sakaria, which, in spite of the promise made your Excellency, and communicated to me in despatch dated the 30th June, that "the necessary orders would be at once sent," remains in the same impassable condition described in my Report of the 7th June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 84.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 967.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 531 of the 21st June last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the Armenian Patriarch, Mngr. Nersès, in which he admits that the 4,000 Mussulman families that he had informed me were being sent by the Porte from Roumelia to Armenia are not from that province, but from the Turkish territories in Asia recently annexed by Russia. As your Lordship is aware, Major Trotter has already reported to me on this matter, upon which I have made representations to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Monseigneur Nersès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, le 27 Octobre* (v. s.), 1879.

APRÈS avoir eu l'honneur d'écrire à votre Excellence le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juin, que le Gouvernement Impérial, avait projeté d'envoyer en Arménie 4,000 familles d'émigrés Musulmans, je lui ai promis de lui communiquer les renseignements que j'avais demandés à ce sujet aux autorités ecclésiastiques d'Erzéroum.

On m'écrit d'Erzéroum en date du 13 courant que la Sublime Porte vient de mettre à exécution son projet. Ces réfugiés n'arrivent pas de Roumélie mais bien des provinces Russes; pourtant il ne diffèrent guère des émigrés de Roumélie. Ce sont des tribus Térékemées armées de pied en cap. Elles ont été établies par les autorités locales dans les villages Arméniens du district du Khenous. Loin de tenir en échec les Kurdes, comme votre Excellence espérait bien, ces Térékemées sont devenus si nuisibles aux paysans Chrétiens que ceux-ci ont dû en protester à l'Archevêque Arménien d'Erzéroum, qui s'est empressé d'adresser au Vali un *takrir* à ce sujet. Le Vali et le Conseil d'Administration d'Erzéroum ont écrit à la Porte que les plaintes des Arméniens étaient fondées, et qu'une contrée aussi désolée ne saurait offrir les ressources nécessaires pour l'entretien d'une nombreuse colonie. Mais la Sublime Porte, guidée par je ne sais quelle politique, a ordonné que les Térékemées soient dirigés sur les villages paisibles des Chrétiens désarmés.

En portant à la connaissance de votre Excellence ces faits authentiques, je suis plein d'espoir qu'elle voudra bien faire des demandes énergiques auprès de qui de droit pour épargner aux Chrétiens de l'Arménie Turque une nouvelle et sérieuse épreuve.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Archevêque NERSÈS.

No. 85.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 972.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1879.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL ANAMISSAKI informs me that an order was recently given by the Vali of Smyrna to the authorities at Chesmé to send two delegates from that district to Smyrna, in order to confer with the delegates of other provinces comprised in the Vilayet of Aidin upon the proposed change of the system of tithes into a land tax.

It appears, however, that some Turkish proprietors, fearing that the proposed alteration would cause them loss, have managed to send to Smyrna a single Ottoman delegate, who will support the old system of tithes.

This proceeding has caused much anxiety to the Christian peasantry, who, in consequence of the many abuses resulting from the old system, are strongly in favour of the substitution of a land tax. As Mr. Anamissaki states that there is no

one capable of representing the wishes of the peasantry, I propose to call the attention of the Porte to the matter, in order that it may not be solely influenced by the representations of the Mussulman proprietors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 86.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 974. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1879.*

I WENT this afternoon to Yildiz Kiosk, at the invitation of the Sultan, and had a long conversation with His Majesty. He began it by saying that he felt deeply hurt by the order given to the British fleet to proceed to Turkish waters. He could not understand how he could have deserved so unfriendly a demonstration on the part of Her Majesty's Government. He could not believe that, after all he had done, his desire to maintain the alliance and friendly relations which had so long existed between England and Turkey could be doubted, or that his good intentions could be called in question.

His policy with regard to England was founded upon his own convictions, and could not be changed through the influence or advice of any Ministers. I, who had known him so long and so intimately, could vouch for his ardent desire to give his people the reforms which he believed were absolutely necessary for their welfare. If he had not yet put his intentions into execution, so as to satisfy himself or me, it was owing to circumstances with which I was well acquainted, and to difficulties and to opposition that he had exerted himself to the utmost to overcome. As soon as he had made the late change in the Government he had given the most peremptory order that a plan of reform should be prepared by his Ministers and presented to him.

This had been done just at the very moment when the approaching arrival of the British fleet was announced, and the "Mazbata" of the Council on the subject was now before him, waiting for his "Iradé," or Imperial sanction. But how could he give that sanction if his subjects and public opinion abroad would attribute it to a threat on the part of England?

Such was the substance of His Majesty's remarks. I begged him to put aside the idea that the order given to the British fleet was a menace to him. I said that its presence in Turkish waters might be in his own interests. But I explained to him that it was, no doubt, so far connected with the reforms that he had promised Her Majesty's Government to put into execution in his Asiatic provinces, that until those reforms were loyally and fully carried out the condition of the Christian populations in Asia Minor and elsewhere would be such as to cause great anxiety to Her Majesty's Government. The state of Asia Minor was, I observed, at this moment not very unlike that of Bulgaria and Roumelia before the war. The Christians were exposed to oppression and ill-treatment. They were discontented and disaffected, and Russia would naturally encourage this feeling, as it tended to undermine His Majesty's authority. They would receive the sympathy of Europe, and especially of England. Her Majesty's Government would be unable to lift up a hand to maintain Turkish rule in Armenia, or even, perhaps, to prevent the occupation of the province by Russia, if the just grievances and complaints of its Christian inhabitants were not listened to, and the reforms carried out which would alone insure to them protection for their lives and property. It was on this account, and, consequently, in the interest of His Majesty himself, that Her Majesty's Government were so anxious that no further delay should take place in putting those reforms into execution, and that Baker Pasha, whose loyalty to His Majesty and military capacity could not be called in question, should be appointed to an independent command in Armenia and Kurdistan. This latter measure would at once have the effect of convincing Her Majesty's Government of His Majesty's sincerity, of conciliating his Christian subjects, and of re-establishing and strengthening his own authority in provinces which were now almost in a state of rebellion.

His Majesty replied that he fully concurred in what I had said as to the loyalty and ability of Baker Pasha. His appointment to a command which His Majesty believed would satisfy Her Majesty's Government was one of the questions he had

discussed with his Ministers. He had been prevented carrying out his intentions in this respect, as he had been in issuing the Iradé for the reforms, by the threat inferred by the orders given to the fleet. He was still disposed to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government in this and other respects; but neither his dignity nor his duty to his people could permit him to do so under a menace. Could I, His Majesty asked, assure him in writing that the British fleet would not again appear in Turkish waters except at his request? Should Turkey be in danger from a foreign enemy, or should the intrigues to which I had referred endanger the tranquillity of his Asiatic dominions, he would, relying upon the ancient friendship of England, himself request that the fleet should appear off his coasts.

I observed to His Majesty that I had learnt from him with great pleasure that he proposed to give Baker Pasha an appointment which would prove satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government. But I must warn him, at the same time, that if Baker Pasha's services were employed elsewhere than in Armenia or Kurdistan, or in some other equally disturbed districts where the Christian population required special protection, Her Majesty's Government would naturally feel greatly disappointed.

As regards the fleet, I said the best way to prevent the necessity arising for its appearance in Turkish waters was to convince Her Majesty's Government, without delay, of his sincerity, and of his real desire to carry out the promised reforms by commencing at once with them. I, therefore, earnestly begged him to begin with at least one province, which he might select for the experiment. Let His Majesty name a Governor-General in whom he had entire confidence, give him full powers, and authorize him to employ Europeans to superintend the execution of these reforms, as Safvet Pasha, in his note of the 24th October, 1878, had stated that the Porte was ready to do.

If His Majesty would, without delay, adopt this course, and give Baker Pasha such an appointment as I had suggested, Her Majesty's Government would, I had every reason to hope, be satisfied that His Majesty really intended to fulfil his promises.

His Majesty answered that he would take what I had said into most serious consideration. He trusted that I fully understood that he was in no way opposed to the employment of Europeans. On the contrary, he was convinced that it was absolutely necessary if the administration of the Empire was to be reformed. But His Majesty went on harping upon the impossibility of his doing anything whilst a menace was hanging over him. Such, he considered, would be the case so long as Her Majesty's Government would not promise that the British fleet should not be sent into Turkish waters.

In the course of conversation I called His Majesty's attention to the article in the Turkish paper, the "Turjimani Hakikat" (copy of which I have transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 962 of the 8th instant). I said I was the last person to complain of the free expression of opinion in the newspapers, but I could not but remember that the press in Turkey was under a strict censorship, and that newspapers had been suspended and suppressed upon the most trifling grounds. In this case an article most offensive to England, and full of shameful misrepresentations, calculated to excite public opinion in Turkey against her, had been allowed to pass unnoticed. Moreover, I had reason to believe that the article in question had been seen and approved by some person in the palace, who had authorized its publication. It could not fail, therefore, to cause a very unfavourable impression upon Her Majesty's Government, as they would gather from it that a change of policy as regards England had taken place on the part of His Majesty and of the Porte.

His Majesty replied that he could not believe it possible that any person in the palace had anything to do with the article to which I had referred. He understood that it was an answer to one in the "Vakit," a controversy having arisen between the two newspapers on the subject of the orders given to the British fleet. He had not read it, but he would do so, and would see what ought to be done.

His Majesty gave me the impression that he was not quite sincere in what he said on the subject.

His Majesty then asked me my opinion upon the financial project now before the Council of Ministers. I said that, as far as I was acquainted with its details, there appeared to me to be very serious objections to it. I mentioned those stated in Mr. Foster's private letter to me (copy inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 965 of the 9th instant) and some others which occurred to me. I suggested to

His Majesty that he should consult Mr. Foster on the subject, which he said he would do.

After I had left His Majesty, he sent Munir Bey to ask me whether I would give him a statement in writing to the effect that Her Majesty's Government would not send the British fleet into Turkish waters except at his request. This I, of course, absolutely declined to do, and I begged Munir Bey to tell His Majesty that all I could venture to promise was to ask your Lordship, if His Majesty desired it, for authority to state formally in writing that the fleet had not been ordered to Vourla as a menace to His Majesty.

Munir Bey brought me back a message that the Sultan would send me an answer on the following day.

I have omitted to mention that the Sultan, perceiving that I suspected him of a leaning towards Russia, declared on his oath, using words to which Mussulmans attach a very solemn meaning, that "his heart and his tongue" were of accord on this subject; that his interests and those of his country rendered it incumbent upon him to remain faithful to the English alliance; and that if ever circumstances beyond his control rendered it absolutely necessary for him to desert that alliance for one with Russia, he would give me due warning of his intention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 87.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 979.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches on matters of interest, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Bagdad, Bourgas, Kaisarieh, and Gallipoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Lieutenant-Colonel Miles to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bagdad, October 13, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch dated the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's information, copy of a further letter received from Mr. Robertson, Consul at Busrah, reporting on the proceedings of certain Sheikhs residing on the banks of the Shat-el-Arab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. R. MILES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Consul Robertson to Lieutenant-Colonel Miles.

Sir, *Busrah, October 2, 1879.*

IN continuation of my letters dated the 18th September, I have the honour to report that the Sheikhs of Harthab Dair and Nishwah, having continued to disregard the summonses of the Local Government to appear at Busrah not in a spirit of defiance, but from a vague fear of what the new Vali might do to them, as he refused to give them the usual promise of personal safety ("hadh-wa-bakhat"), it was decided by his Excellency Zabil Pasha and the Administrative Council that coercive measures against them must be undertaken.

Besides the regular infantry here, numbering 150 men, and the crews of the

men-of-war, numbering about 200, a force of Arabs, comprising 2,000 footmen and 250 horsemen, was collected from the country opposite and to the south of Busrah. The horsemen received orders to proceed by the desert on the eastern bank of the river, and the footmen were embarked with the regular infantry on board the corvettes "Broussa" and "Iskenderia," and the paddle-steamers "Arkadi" and "Busrah."

On the 22nd ultimo, when everything was ready, numbers of the families and dependents of the threatened Sheikhs arrived to declare their absolute submission to the Government, and their readiness to obey the summonses if the Vali would only comply with the usual formality of guaranteeing their personal safety.

I believe that after hearing these messengers Zabil Pasha hesitated about proceeding with the exhibition, but as food had been advanced to the Arabs, and everything was ready, he finally decided to go on.

His Excellency went in the "Arkadi" with all the Administrative Council and the regular troops, and the small steamer "Busrah" followed with the Arab footmen.

The two corvettes got aground soon after leaving Busrah, and remained fast for a couple of days. The "Arkadi" proceeded, and as she reached Harthab Dair and Nishwah consecutively, the Sheikhs all went off and submitted themselves to the Wali's pleasure. On arriving at Kurnah, his Excellency, seeing that coercive measures were unnecessary, sent orders to the Arab horsemen, who were following overland, to return to their homes. He remained at Kurnah for three days inquiring into various matters at issue between the officials, the Sheikhs, and the people; finding the officials generally to blame, he dismissed some and reprimanded others.

He also collected a part of the outstanding revenue for this and last year, and received bonds and guarantees for the remainder.

When the corvettes "Broussa" and "Iskenderia" arrived at Kurnah on the third day after the "Arkadi," 500 Arabs were transferred to the latter, and his Excellency and Council proceeded in her to Medinah to make inquiries regarding the fight between the two branches of the Siamir reported in my letter of the 18th September. The people were found to be heartily tired of the state of insecurity and bloodshed in which they lived consequent on the quarrels and revelries of their leading Sheikhs, and an assemblage of them petitioned for a Turkish Governor to reside at Medinah, and agreed to defray half the expenses of erecting a house for him and quarters for a battalion of troops. This last statement is surprising, but apparently true.

On the third day after the arrival of the Vali and Council at Medinah, where confidence had been established and all the principal Sheikhs of the Siamir were on board the "Arkadi" on business or from curiosity, orders were suddenly given for the steamer to get under way for Busrah, and the Sheikhs found themselves prisoners. The "Arkadi" arrived here yesterday with the Vali and his Council and forty-five Sheikhs on board.

His Excellency's intentions in regard to the latter are not yet known to the members of the Council, but it is supposed that most of them will be allowed to depart on giving security for their future good and peaceable conduct, while those against whom serious charges are recorded will be put on their trial. At present they are all confined in the unused Government-house which Midhat Pasha had built near the river.

All the members of the Administrative Council regard the expedition as having been most successful, and speak highly of Zabil Pasha's conduct as just and kindly.

The head of each faction is also under the impression that he is in special favour with his Excellency, which says much for the Vali's tact.

Although the expedition may not have been exactly necessary, and was the result of misrepresentation respecting that attitude of the Arabs between here and Kurnah, it will have a good moral effect on the Sheikhs generally, who, although by no means prepared to defy the Government, had become a little impudent under Abdullah Pasha's mismanagement.

The Vali and his Council, when at Medinah, decided to encourage the establishment of a trading station at El Hammar or the Euphrates, the point at which the river issues from the marsh and becomes navigable some twenty miles above Medinah, by granting free sights for the construction of buildings, and commencing to run several steamers, which are now laid up here, between El Hammar and

Busrah. The project appears to be a good one, and to promise success and benefits if fairly carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. ROBERTSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kaisarieh, October 20, 1879.

Sir,

DURING the early part of this month I have visited Angora, Yuzgat, and Kirscheler.

The Sandjaks of Yuzgat and Kirscheler compare favourably with that of Kaisarieh in regard to public safety. At Yuzgat the Mutessarif, Salil Pasha, is more energetic than the ordinary run of Turkish officials, and he is well supported by the Bimbashi of Zaptiehs. The police themselves are more efficient than usual, being regularly paid. The mode in which their payment is made is characteristic of the shifts to which the Local Government is reduced for want of money. The money coming into the sandjak chest, being all more or less forestalled by haralis, the Mutessarif sends the zaptiehs to the various Kaimakams with orders on the caza chest, so that their pay is secured before the money reaches the sandjaks.

In Kirscheler the absence of robbers in any numbers may be chiefly attributed to the fact that the greater part of the population is Moslem, and the Anatolian robbers show great respect to the followers of the prophet.

In only one place, Suleimankir, near the Kizil Jesnates, were there any complaints on the score of robbers, and, on reporting the name of the Chief, Sertoh, the Mutessarif promised to look after him.

But if public safety be ensured the inhabitants are not saved other troubles. In Kirschelin the extortions of the tithe collectors and their rough dealings with the villagers were everywhere the subject of complaint.

In Yuzgat the Protestant communities complained of not being represented on the Medjlisses, and the Armenians stated that in spite of a Firman they were not permitted to build a church at Tchorum. The Mutessarif gave ready attention to both subjects when brought to his notice, and was going to inquire into the Tchorum business.

The representation of the Protestants I spoke of to the Vali at Angora, and his Excellency Khourchid Pasha stated that he had given orders that as the Greek and Protestant communities were very small, they should be allowed to choose members for the Medjlisses between them, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes to have the seats.

This does not meet the case. The Greeks are already represented on the various Medjlisses, and naturally are not inclined to lose any seats. In this country, where Government is so much thrown on the community, it is very necessary that where the members of any nationality exist in sufficient numbers to receive separate recognition they should be represented on the Medjliss. Whenever Government in this part of the world is reformed it is to be hoped that this system of rule by communities or nationalities may be abolished. Up to the present the Christians, irrespective of sect or race, have combined against the Moslem. Now with the efforts to introduce Greeks and Armenians into the schools the difference between the various Christian sects is being widened, and as both feel their footing stronger against the Moslem they will turn against each other. The Ottoman Empire is falling to pieces, but unless the Christians can learn to settle their differences they would make but sorry successors to the Turks.

The administration of the new laws is scarcely in working order, but nowhere does it meet with favour. The machinery is expensive, and overweighted with a multiplicity of detail.

Neither Moufetich nor Mondsionnoum impressed me favourably at Angora, and their subordinates in the sandjaks are too dependent on local influence to do any real good.

Anatolia is not ripe for legal reform; the new laws are not understood; the old Turkish laws were quite good enough for the people if they had been properly administered. It is men, not measures, that are required here. If some capable

Governors and honest officials could be given to Asia Minor they would do more good than all the Reform Commissions and new laws.

The appointments of Moufetich and Mondsionnoum, &c., have entailed at the very lowest estimate an increase of £ T. 5,000 per annum on the expenses of the vilayet.

This unnecessary expenditure has been incurred at a moment when the Porte has adopted measures for meeting its debts or obtaining fresh loans in Constantinople, which must, if pursued, bring about a collapse in the provinces.

The issue of havalés with authority to collect in the provinces is only now beginning to be directly felt. I believe that the Porte maintains that the havalés issued do not exceed the estimates furnished by the provincial authorities, even after deduction has been made for local requirements. But the estimates of Turkish officials ought to be treated with a wider margin, and when an agent from Constantinople presents an havalé in the provinces, it generally happens that his claim so nearly meets the sum in the chest that either the havalé cannot be paid or else local charges are unheeded.

Unluckily for this country the Constantinople agent has more influence than the poor clerk or miserable zaptiehs, and the latter generally suffer. At present it is only the lower ranks who are feeling this new oppression, but if the havalés continue to arrive as fast as they have done lately the higher officials will also suffer, and then good-bye to any semblance of justice. Corruption is bad enough at present, but it would be tenfold worse if the higher officials' pay is entirely stopped.

It is useless to speak of roads or any other public works; the reply in every case is "no money," and the general poverty of the Government is made an excuse to cover defalcation and misappropriation of funds which have no connection with the Imperial Treasury.

Zia Pasha, the Vali of Adana, has lately informed his Government that he has begun a road from Adana to Kaisarieh, and is levying a toll on all travellers. If something of the kind could be done in this province roads might be made, and the old bridges, which are fast disappearing, be repaired. The general impression left by my recent journey through the Angora Vilayet is that there is a want of competent honest Governors. The Mutessarifs of Yuzgat and Kirscheler, Sali Pasha and Abdoulah Effendi, are painstaking, and pay attention to suggestions, but the Vali, Khourchid Pasha, struck me as a bad Governor-General, and the greater number of the officials in the vilayet take after their chief. Corruption is everywhere. The country is fertile and the people industrious; the harvest on the whole has been good; but neither people nor Government reap much benefit from the latter, the want of roads and transport preventing the export in any quantity of surplus produce, and the haralis seizing the tithes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. COOPER.

No. 88.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1389.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 20, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve your having communicated to the Porte a translation of Colonel Wilson's despatch No. 260 on the condition of the Sivas Vilayet, as reported in your despatch No. 930 of the 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1392. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 947 of the 4th instant, stating that you have delivered to Sawas Pasha, the newly-appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, a declaration in the terms authorized by my despatch No. 195 of the 12th February last, being in explanation of that previously given by you to His Majesty the Sultan on the occasion of the exchange of the ratifications of the Convention of the 4th June, 1878.

Your proceedings in this long-pending question have the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 90.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 8.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 50, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Midhat Pacha's resignation, and your recent visit to his Excellency at Damascus; and I have to state to you that your proceedings have my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 91.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 60. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* 1, 1879.

IN my No. 59, Political, of the 18th October, I forwarded to your Lordship a Report by Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Erzeroum, on the pitiable state of the Sandjak of Bayazid, to investigate which I had specially sent him.

About ten days ago I received intelligence from various sources that not only were no visible steps being taken to provide the suffering districts with grain for seed and for food, but that several years' arrears of taxes were being again urgently demanded, and that numbers of the inhabitants were being imprisoned for non-compliance with these demands.

As it is impossible in this country to learn the truth without personal investigation, I again dispatched Captain Everett to make further inquiry into the actual state of affairs.

Captain Everett returned last night, and reports the inhabitants of the Kara-Kilissa and Alashgerd Cazas to be in a state of desperation and prostration.

The only result of the visit of the new Mutessarif has been that in the Alashgerd district an official had been deputed to inquire into the amount of grain required for seed and food. The Report had been sent to Bayazid, and there the matter had rested. In Kara-Kilissa no such inquiry had been set on foot; but, on the other hand, subsequent to the arrival of the new Mutessarif at Bayazid, officials had been sent to the above-mentioned districts demanding most urgently immediate payment, not only of all arrears of taxes legally due, but also of taxes which had already been paid prior to the war; also of taxes from the returned emigrants for the period for which they had been absent in Russia. From the district of Kara-Kilissa above 500,000 piastres were demanded.

The Kaimakam (whom I should state Captain Everett absolves from blame, as he was only carrying out the orders of his superior) had already put several men in prison for non-compliance with these unfair and exorbitant demands, which the people were wholly unable to meet. In Alashgerd Caza also numbers had been arrested for the same reasons. While at Mollah Lileiman the Cadi of Toprak-Kaleh

(Alashgerd) was reported to have beaten and imprisoned three of the villagers for having complained to Captain Everett on his arrival.

The Cadi, on being taxed with the same, of course denied it, and said the men had been imprisoned for impertinence to him in refusing to pay taxes. The men were released on the intercession of the Kaimakam prior to Captain Everett's leaving the village.

Parts of the Pasin district (west of Alashgerd) are nearly as badly off as in Alashgerd itself. At the Moslem village of Alajez only ten days' supply of grain for food remained in stock.

Unfortunately, crowds of refugees, both Moslem and Christian (the latter returned emigrants from Alashgerd, &c.), are still pouring across the frontier from Russian territory, the Moslems to seek new homes, and the Christians in the vain expectation of finding their old homes intact. Nine hundred families of these emigrants, Zilanli Kurds, are said to have been billeted in detachments in various villages of the Sandjak of Bayazid, and will doubtless be the cause of greatly aggravating the sufferings of the inhabitants.

On the day that Captain Everett left for the districts on his second visit I wrote to the Vali Pasha here, telling him that I had been informed that the Mutessarif had roundly abused the returned Christian refugees, and had taken no measures whatever for supplying grain to the districts, and that if famine ensued in consequence the Mutessarif of Bayazid would be responsible to God and to the Sultan for any harm that might befall His Majesty's subjects.

The Pasha, in reply, stated that he had sent the necessary instructions to the Mutessarif.

I have reason to believe that my remonstrances and the dispatch of Captain Everett a second time to those districts has stirred up the authorities here to action, but unfortunately there is no post and no telegraph between Erzeroum and Bayazid (one of the first reforms demanded by the Imperial Commissioners five months ago, to which no reply has as yet been received from the Sublime Porte), and that it takes at the very least a fortnight for an answer to be received for a despatch from here to Bayazid.

There can, I fear, be little doubt that in spite of his promises to me prior to his departure, and despite the orders alleged to have been given him at that time by the Vali, the new Mutessarif, instead of busying himself for the welfare of his Sovereign's suffering subjects, both Moslem and Christian, has evinced a decided hostility to the Christian portion of the population, and is doing little or nothing to save them from an era of suffering worse than anything they have previously undergone.

I would have urged the removal of the Mutessarif from office, but that a fresh change would, in the deficient state of communications, only make matters worse than they are.

If the Sublime Porte has any regard whatever for the sufferings of its subjects it ought at once to inform the authorities concerned, viz., the Vali of Erzeroum, and his subordinate, the Mutessarif of Bayazid, that it will hold them jointly and severally responsible if the inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak be not promptly supplied with the necessary amount of grain, both for sowing and for food, as well as for any illegal demands that may be made on account of alleged arrears of taxation.

I do not think the Vali is to blame for what has occurred, but a sharp reminder from Constantinople will doubtless impress upon him a sense of the gravity of the situation which he at present hardly seems to appreciate.

Captain Everett will send a detailed Report on the whole subject by the next mail, and will report on what measures have been taken.

I think also that if these Consular visits of inspection are not altogether to be regarded as a farce by the Ottoman officials, that it is very desirable that Her Majesty's Ambassador should exert his influence with the Turkish Government for the removal from office of the Cadi of Toprak-Kaleh (Alashgerd), and of Osman Effendi, the tax-gatherer of Kara-Kilissa.

Captain Everett informs me that the complaints against these two officials of corruption and oppressive conduct is general on the part of other officials, as well as of the inhabitants of their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 92.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 55. Political.)

Aleih, November 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch, marked Confidential, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting generally on the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Aleih, November 8, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to refer in previous reports to the erection of the Kaïmakamlik of Lattakia into a separate Mutessariflik, and to the appointment to the new post of Mutessarif of Lattakia of Ahmed Effendi Sahle, who acquired, at the time of the massacres in 1860, and the proceedings consequent thereupon, a somewhat unenviable notoriety. I now consider myself in justice bound to state to your Excellency that, according to the information which reaches me from that district, this administrative change is already beginning to effect the results which Midhat Pasha hoped to obtain thereby, thanks to the wisdom and ability displayed by the new Mutessarif.

Public security is gradually returning, the relations of the various communities to each other are improving, regularity has been introduced into the proceedings of the Criminal Court, hitherto notorious for its incapacity and venality, though I regret to hear that no such amelioration can be traced in the Civil and Commercial Courts, which still persevere in selling justice to the highest bidder.

A Christian has been appointed Kaïmakam of the Caza of Merkab, an event hitherto unparalleled in Syria, upon which great hopes have been founded. Favourable reports have, it seems, also been received from the other districts of the new Mutessariflik, except from that of Gebelé, where the Ansariehs complain bitterly of the arbitrary proceedings of their Kaïmakam, who unfortunately exercises considerable influence over Ahmed Effendi Sahle, as the latter was a creature of his father, the late Yamouk Pasha, formerly Governor-General of Sidon. On the whole, however, there seems little doubt, from what I have hitherto heard, that the arrangement inaugurated by Midhat Pasha has been productive of good results.

The information which reaches me from various other parts of the vilayet is, however, far from being so satisfactory. Corruption and anarchy reign at Tripoli, which has just lost its new Mutessarif, who died recently at Beyrout. In the absence of either justice or police, highway robberies, burglaries, and assaults are of daily occurrence. From Sidon I hear that Halil Bey-el-Assad, Kaïmakam of Tyre, and Youssef Agha-el-Mamlouk, whom I have had occasion to mention in my despatches as the tyrants of that district, and against whom I especially warned Midhat Pasha on his arrival in Syria, are allowed to continue their career of extortion, oppression, and corruption. I regret exceedingly to add that I have been assured from various sources that they are supported by Raef Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout, and the especial protégé of his Highness, and that his support has been secured by means peculiar to this country. A petition has even been addressed to the authorities, naming the five villages which have been the price of Raef Effendi's protection. It is at least a serious matter for regret that, when such charges are brought against Raef Effendi, his especial friend, Midhat Pasha, should, in answer to a petition from Belad Besharra, and in the face of all prayers to the contrary, have selected him to conduct an inquiry into the state of that district. I deplore the more to have to report so unfavourably with regard to this functionary, as I had hitherto looked upon him and mentioned him as one of the most promising and honest officials in Syria.

The general condition of the country appears to be deplorable. Murder, plunder, and highway robbery are everywhere on the increase, and are constantly

being reported to me from the various southern districts, from Sidon and from Caiffa, from Nazareth and from Acre. These offences cannot, or can only, rarely be attributed to the impulse of fanaticism, but are simply due to the absence of all repression. The authorities are supine; the police too often act in collusion with the offenders; justice exists only in name: it is not to be wondered at that, under circumstances so favourable to its growth, there should be a plentiful harvest of crime.

Nor does there seem to be any reasonable prospect of this state of things mending. Midhat Pasha appears to be surrounded by evil influences, which neutralize his own good intentions. There are few appointments made under the administration of his Highness which are not open to objection, while to most of them grave exception must be taken; and if his Highness himself is inaccessible to corruption, I fear there are those around and near him who are not proof against such baneful practices, and, unfortunately, the contaminated atmosphere in which he moves appears seriously to affect his judgment and his action.

I do not allude to the state of affairs in Damascus and the Hauran, as I leave it to Mr. Jago, who is on the spot, to report to your Excellency on those matters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 93.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Damascus, November 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting further upon the troubles in the Hauran, referred to in my preceding despatch to your Lordship No. 16 of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, November 9, 1879.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 27 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Druse losses in the fight with the troops in the Hauran on the 28th ultimo, estimated by the authorities at 300 men killed, seem to have been by the best accounts 61 killed; number of wounded, however, unknown. The losses of the Turks are put down as nearly 100 killed. Between 30 and 40 wounded of the worst cases have been brought to the hospital here.

Efforts are being made to lay the blame of the engagement on the military in the following manner:—

It is stated that a body of Hauranese peasantry (where hostility to the Druses is alleged to have necessitated the massing of troops in the Hauran now amounting to 6,000 men, in order to prevent bloodshed between the two parties) first attacked the Druses, when the gendarmes were sent to draw off the former, and in which they succeeded before much injury had been done, when two companies of nizam, commanded by a captain, came up and at once opened fire upon the Druses, who replied. In consequence, Djemil Pasha appeared with two other companies, and the fight became general. It is asserted the captain had orders not to fire. He was, however, killed.

On the 4th instant I received a letter from the Druse Chiefs, translation of which I beg to inclose, and to state that I believe in the general truth of their statements. I have given a copy of it to Midhat Pasha, and expressed a hope that he will deal out impartial justice. It seems that a similar letter was addressed to the French Consul, the Emir Abd-el-Kader, and others, all of whom, I believe, have brought it to his Highness' notice.

On the same day (the 4th instant) arrived from Beyrout, sent by Rustem Pasha,

three Druse Delegates from a portion of the Druses of Lebanon, in order to proceed to the Hauran for the purpose of facilitating an arrangement. Before starting they were furnished, at an interview with Midhat Pasha, with his written proposals to the Hauran Druses, and which, so far as my memory goes, were as follows :—

1. The delivery of the accused persons in the Busr-el-Hariry and Dweïry disturbance, to be brought to Damascus, tried and liberated in fifteen or twenty days.

2. Withdrawal of the Druses to their homes.

3. The Druse Chiefs to come to Damascus.

4. Payment of £T. 10,000 as indemnity for military expenses already incurred; all arrears of taxes to be considered cancelled.

5. Construction of a road through the Lejah.

6. Construction at Swedah, capital of the Jebel Druse, of a military post, to be definitely occupied by Imperial troops.

In return, the Jebel Druse to be constituted a Mutessariflk, with a Druse as Governor, and with a Druse gendarmerie. Taxes to be levied as in Lebanon. No conscription.

I may mention here that the population of the Jebel Druse Hauran is estimated by the authorities as between 15,000 and 20,000 souls.

An express with these proposals was sent off at once to the front, but the Delegates did not proceed owing to the receipt, shortly afterwards, of a telegram conveying news of the probable success of the mission of Saïd Bey Talhûk (alluded to in my preceding despatch), stating that the Druses and the Hauranese had returned to their homes and occupations, and that the Druse Chiefs, with Saïd Bey, would come to Damascus, bringing with them nine of the accused in the Busr-el-Hariry affair (the other eleven being alleged to have fallen in the late fight).

Neither Saïd Bey, the Chiefs, or the accused have, however, yet appeared.

Yesterday I saw Midhat Pasha, and expressed my regret that he had not informed me at the first of the whole of the conditions he meant to impose when my friendly support was invited, and suggested that perhaps the delay in the arrival of the Chiefs, &c., proceeded from the knowledge now possessed by them that they differed from those of which Saïd Bey was the bearer.

I asked also whether Saïd Bey knew of the last new terms before his departure. His Highness said that Saïd Bey did not know of them before he left, as they were not at all definite conditions, but merely propositions to be ultimately discussed, on the basis of reciprocal advantages, with the Chiefs when they come to Damascus. That he had advanced them as propositions only, when the Druse Delegates, sent by Rustem Pasha, waited upon him; and that they had declared themselves surprised at their moderation, as they had been informed they were very hard.

His Highness stated also that the Grand Vizier had authorized him by telegraph to proceed to the Hauran with the troops to compel submission, and was sending him five battalions more. He hoped, however, the matter would be peacefully arranged with the Sheikhs on their arrival, the more so as half of the troops now in the field were redifs, whose families were cursing him for keeping them from their homes after three years' hard foreign service.

Since the 31st ultimo, the date of Saïd Bey's departure, reinforcements of redifs, recently returned to various parts of Syria, have been sent to the Hauran, besides small detachments of regular and irregular cavalry, ammunition, and a few mountain guns.

Contracts have also been made for provisioning and clothing 6,000 men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Petition.

(Translation.)

To the British Consul at Damascus.

THE Sheikhs of the Druses of the Jebel Hauran beg to inform you of their present state.

That we are from old times servants of the Sublime Porte and part of its subjects, and submissive to it, and offer to it our services personally and with our blood. Notwithstanding, our Government has listened to partial persons and intriguers with respect to us and to various things, such as the people of the Hauran, who attribute to us many things which have no foundation, and the Government professes to believe them. If we try to defend ourselves from such intrigues, they do not believe us; and now the population of Busr-el-Hariry have abused some of the population of Dweïry in the vicinity inhabited by Druses about a petty affair of little importance. The villagers of Busr sent their men to Dweïry and killed six persons, whereupon the people of Dweïry defended themselves. A fight took place, and seven persons of Busr were killed. The people of Busr began to kill Druses whenever they met them, and they pretended that the slaughter of Moslems by Druses was held to be lawful by these last.

Their complaints were favorably listened to, and they thus attained their end.

The Government ordered that a camp should be formed at Taara, a Druse village. The Hauranese then sacked the village and its crops. The people of Busr and the troops pretend they desire to make peace between the two villages, *i.e.*, Busr and Dweïry, and have requested that we appear for trial. We replied that, considering the existence of old feuds, we would make ourselves responsible that we would pay, according to custom, 10,000 piastres for every Moslem who had been killed above the number of Druses killed by the Hauranese; and we made this proposal to the Commander of the Turkish troops, asking him also to summon the Sheikhs of the Hauran villages, and examine into the old cases and facts respecting the results of former feuds.

We saw, however, the Commander-in-chief and the officials of the Government siding with the Hauranese, and the latter, in spite of the camp and the soldiers, proceeding almost every day with men to Dweïry. All of us are anxious to make peace, and have openly expressed such desire, and we have received three times permission to come to the camp and treat for peace. We have been, therefore, to the camp, and we immediately heard that four Druses had been killed by the zaptiehs. Seeing how things were proceeding, we abandoned the villages and went to others from fear of the doings of the Government.

Then we sent our principal men to the camp on four occasions in the hope of peace, but we found that the Hauranese collected their men to go to Busr by order of the Mutessariflk of the Hauran, whilst our Delegates were still in the camp. The Hauranese, the Arabs, and the soldiers advanced to Dweïry and made a great fight. They killed the chief man of the village and seven other persons, and began to attack us towards Nejran in its vicinity. The women and children cried out and sent word to the Druses. The ignorant of the Druses came on hastily to defend their honour, and a fight took place, and several of the soldiers and Druses were killed. This was all against our wish and without our consent, and proceeds entirely from the intrigues of the Hauranese and the ready ear given to them by the Government, and the refusal of the Government to listen to us.

And we beg and beseech your zeal in our behalf to use your best endeavours with your Government, to the protection and good offices of which we always look, to do us justice, and to relieve us from this difficulty, and which has been against our desire.

This is what we beg and beseech from the zeal of your Government, and we are preventing our horsemen, our Arabs, and tribes from doing aught which may cause injury.

May God allow you, &c.

(Signed) IBRAHIM EL ATRASH.
HAZIMEH HAYNEDEH.
HEZZA AMER.
KASSIM EL HILLY.
MOHD. ABU ASSAF.
FEEDAN EL KULAHANY.

16 *Zilcadé*, 1296 (*October* 31, 1879).

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 295.) *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegrams Nos. 751 and 752 of the 21st instant, in the former of which you report the several steps taken by the Sultan and his Government towards the initiation of reforms; the latter containing an announcement from Lieutenant Chermside that the prisoners at Zeitoun have at length been released, and also stating from yourself that all Saïd Pasha's proceedings have received the Sultan's approval.

I congratulate your Excellency on the results which you have so far obtained by your representations. Some real and solid progress appears to have been made,

and if the Sultan adheres steadily to his present intentions, there is every reason to expect very material benefit to His Majesty's Empire, and a considerable increase in the esteem and respect felt for him in this country.

In regard to the intended appointment of Rustem Pasha to the Government of the Province of Erzeroum, and to the choice of his successor in the Lebanon, I have suggested to you, by telegraph, the name of Carathéodory Pasha as a Governor who might be counted upon to hold an equal hand between the several sects inhabiting the mountain. You would be entitled to object, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to the choice of any person who, like Nasri Bey, would be inclined to lean entirely to the side of one or other of the parties. Her Majesty's Government make no claim for the appointment of a Governor who would unduly favour the Druses, but they consider it very desirable that an impartial man should be selected for the office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 95.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
Damascus, November 11, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, relating to the troubles in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Damascus, November 11, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant respecting the troubles in the Hauran, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Saïd Bey Talhuk arrived in Damascus late on the 9th instant with four of the accused Druses (the remaining sixteen being said to have been either killed or wounded in the fight with the troops) and two of their chief men, including the head of the Druse religion, with a letter to the Vali from the Sheikhs, stating they would after a while come to Damascus, being then occupied. The four accused were committed to prison.

The day after Saïd Bey called upon me and complained of the position in which he was placed by the action of the Governor-General in first making certain conditions which he (Saïd) pretended he had even more than carried out, and then making others afterwards, and which he said had only been made known to him by a private letter after the original proposals had been consented to by his influence and labour.

He stated that neither he nor the two Ockals had any power to discuss the new conditions, and requested me to intervene with the Vali.

I naturally declined to have anything more to do with the matter, telling him that if he considered I had incurred any moral responsibility towards himself in what I had already done, I was perfectly ready to get the persons already surrendered sent back to whence they came, and thus let the matter recommence *de novo*, from the beginning.

He gave me to understand that the authorities had themselves suggested such a course, but that he himself declined to go back again to the Hauran, after the way he had been treated, the bearer of fresh conditions which might possibly be later on again changed; and that he should probably go home and abandon the matter altogether. He stated also that the Druses were determined to fight to the death if obliged, and that several of the desert tribes were allied with them. This statement must, of course, be taken for what it is worth.

He assured me also that the Sheikhs of the Hauranese were willing to abide by

his decision as to the loss of life in the Busr-el-Hariry and Dulehy affairs, i.e., by the payment of blood-money, the ordinary way of settling feuds in the Hauran. Owing to the strong preference ever shown by Syrians to this mode of settling even cases of cold-blooded murder, this may be true.

I can only regret that the tortuous policy pursued by Midhat Pasha has had no other result than still further to complicate matters and render arrangement more difficult by increasing the distrust, always great, entertained by the Hauran Druses of the word of a Turkish functionary, and by showing clearly to them, what was self-evident, that their subjugation, and not the interests of justice alone, was really aimed at.

Your Excellency will have observed the great caution, which experience has taught me was necessary to use in inditing my letter to the Hauran Druses at his Highness' request; and I need hardly say that had the real conditions of submission been not sedulously concealed, neither Saïd Bey would have put himself, as a Druse, in the invidious position of endeavouring to persuade his co-religionists to give up their practical independence, nor would I have consented to interfering, no matter how unofficially, in a matter which did not concern me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 96.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 20.)
Sivas, Anatolia, October 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Captain Harry Cooper, 47th Regiment, relating to affairs in and around Kaisarieh.

Copies of these despatches have been supplied to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 96.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, September 13, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to paragraph 6 in my letter of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Report therein mentioned has now been forwarded to Angora.

2. I have not seen this Report, but believe that the Idaré Medjliss have simply stated that the charges advanced against Hadji Raouf Bey in the petition—a translation of which accompanied my letter—have been substantiated by the records in the Government books of this sandjak.

3. Hadji Raouf Bey still continues in the exercise of his functions as Assistant Judge in the Bedict Mehkéméci.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 96.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, September 13, 1879.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to bring to your notice the increase of brigandage in this sandjak.

About a month ago Teh Tachak, a noted robber, appeared in the neighbourhood of Dwely Karahissar, but was lost sight of till the 30th August, when he is

reported to have robbed a caravan, on the road between Kaisarieh and Evrieh, of upwards of £T. 500.

A band of Arschairs, robbers, on the sides of Mount Argarus, have been plundering and maltreating individual travellers and small parties for the last week.

From other directions come other tales of lawlessness and robbery.

2. This afternoon I brought the matter seriously to the notice of the Mutessarif, complaining of the apparent apathy of the Government.

His Excellency Hadj Pasha did not seem to realize the extent of the damage these unpunished robberies are doing the country; he stated, however, that the matter had been receiving the attention of Government, but that the force of zaptiehs at his disposal was insufficient, and concluded by requesting that I would lay before you the desirability of an increase in the mounted police.

3. The zaptiehs, as at present organized in this sandjak, are worse than useless, but it is little good increasing the numbers, unless capable energetic officers be placed in command, and supported by the Local Government.

4. In almost every case of robbery the names of the robbers are known, so that, if the Government were really in earnest, the detection and punishment of criminals would not be a matter of great difficulty.

Teh Tachak is about the only leader of any renown, and his band rarely exceeds a dozen men. The other robbers are chiefly Arschairs and Circassians, who, being always armed and mounted, seize a favourable opportunity for plunder, and who, if they knew that punishment were certain, would be chary of running the risk.

5. It might be found advisable to strengthen the hands of the Local Government by granting the power of summary punishment for robbery with violence.

Imprisonment for a robber only means confinement whilst his friends collect sufficient money to bribe someone or other to grant his release or connive at his escape.

6. Unfortunately, there are many causes at work leading to the fear that this will be an exceptionally bad winter for robberies.

The return of the Turkish prisoners from Russia, and the pitiable state in which both they and the reserves have been sent to their homes, has thrown a number of roving spirits on the land.

The large influx of immigrants from Roumelia, Circassia, and the districts ceded to Russia round Kars and Batoum, has still further increased the number of homeless wanderers.

A disordered Treasury, necessitating great reductions in expenditure, has curtailed the numbers and diminished the efficiency of the zaptiehs.

And the general misgovernment which exists throughout the greater part of Asia Minor gives evil-doers the opportunity to rob and pillage with impunity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 96.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, September 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, the French translation of an Armenian petition referring to what appears to be a gross case of injustice.

2. The facts set forth in the accompanying document are, I believe, correct, though the point at issue is not very clearly brought out.

Ohamusse and Sebonhe, two Armenians of Constantinople, were appointed directors of the powder factory at Kaisarieh some six years ago.

After they had held their appointments for a year, an Inspector, named Servet Effendi, came here and brought charges against them of misappropriation of 35,500 piastres.

3. The two Directors were arrested, and their case was under examination for some four years, during which time Ohamusse and Sebonhe were alternately in and out of prison at Kaisarieh.

Ultimately, in 1878, they were allowed to leave Kaisarieh on finding bail to the amount of 35,500 piastres to appear within sixty-one days at the Tophané, Constantinople, where they would be able to plead their own cause.

Kalmete Sagheryan, an Armenian of this town, came forward with the requi guarantee, and the two men left for Constantinople.

4. They appeared within the requisite time at the Tophané, but the authorities there declined to entertain their case, and said it must be decided at Kaisarieh.

This prevented Sebonhe and Ohamusse procuring the necessary certificate releasing Kalmete from his guarantee.

Servet Effendi pressed for the money, and Kalmete not being able to pay was thrown into prison.

5. In the meantime, Sebonhe and Ohamusse presented themselves to the Stamboul police, and would have been sent back here but for an order from the High Court of Justice that it was not necessary to do so if securities for their appearance were produced.

At the end of three months' imprisonment Kalmete was released; but about the 1st August (1879) he was again put in prison, where he now lies.

6. On representing the case to the Mutessarif, his Excellency informed me that he was only carrying out orders from Constantinople. He had repeatedly endeavoured to explain to the Tophané that Kalmete was only guarantee for the delivery of Ohamusse and Sebonhe at Constantinople within a certain time, and not surety for their contract with the Government.

7. As the Tophané decline to take any steps except through Kaisarieh, the management of the case is almost entirely in the hands of Servet Effendi, who bases his action against Kalmete on the ground that the latter cannot produce any certificate that Sebonhe and Ohamusse presented themselves at the Tophané within the specified time.

This certificate, though the men complied with the terms of their release, cannot be obtained, owing to the action of the Tophané in declining to enter into their case when Sebonhe and Ohamusse presented themselves at Constantinople. But there is no question but that the Government can lay their hands on them both whenever they are required.

8. Servet Effendi, the Inspector, seems a zealous official, anxious to secure the revenues of the factory under his charge, and seeing that there is little chance of recovering any money from Ohamusse and Sebonhe is now endeavouring to extract the amount from Kalmete.

9. I am going next week to Angora, and shall personally bring the case before the Vali; but if it be as the Mutessarif states, an order for the release of Kalmete Sagheryan must come from Constantinople.

I therefore lay the matter before you, in the hopes that some prompt measures may be possible for the release of a man who is unjustly imprisoned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 96.

Petition from Kalouste Sagheryan.

(Traduction de l'Arménien.)

A M. le Consul Anglais de Kaïsserieh, *Kaïsserieh, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Septembre*, 1879.

LES nommés Ohannésse et Sébourh, sujets Ottomans, et de la nation Arménienne, habitants de Constantinople, faisant un contrat avec le Gouvernement ont été nommés Directeurs de la fabrique de poudre à Kaïsserieh. Après un an de service, on a envoyé un inspecteur, au nom de Sevvêti Effendi, pour contrôler les comptes de Sébonhé et Ohannésse.

D'après la prétention des Directeurs, la caisse, ou le Gouvernement leur doit une somme de 100,000 piastres, et d'après le compte de Sevvète Effendi ils doivent 7,500 piastres au Gouvernement et 28,000 piastres aux salpétriers, qui font 35,500 piastres, et il les fait arrêter pour cette somme.

Ces messieurs, dans l'espace de quatre années, quelquefois en prison, quelquefois en dehors, ont envoyé des requêtes et des remarques au Gouverneur d'Angora, à Tophanie, à Adlié-Nizaréti, et le résultat est que, avec une décision du vilayet et du Liva, ils ont été mis hors de prison à condition qu'ils donneraient un garant pour être livrés à Constantinople jusqu'à soixante et un jours. Et on a fait cette remarque que ces messieurs ne possédant rien, ne connaissant personne ici, il serait dans l'intérêt du Gouvernement de les envoyer à Constantinople.

N'ayant aucun intérêt, et ne prenant aucune garantie, poussé seulement par un sentiment d'humanité, et excité par ma conscience, je me suis fait leur garant pour les livrer jusqu'à soixante et un jours à Constantinople, et j'ai donné un billet de garantie pour leur personne au Gouvernement Local c'est-à-dire, au Moutessarifiek.

Et d'après mon billet je les ai présenté avant l'époque convenue à Tophané; mais le Tophané a répondu qu'il n'avait aucune affaire avec ces messieurs; comme leur affaire avait commencé à Kaïsserich, il fallait les renvoyer à la dite ville, et qu'il ne pensait pas même si on payait l'argent.

Malgré cette réponse du Tophané, Sevvète Effendi me poursuivait toujours, et j'ai été obligé, ou il m'obligait, à lui donner de nouveau billet de garantie pour vingt et un jours. J'ai donné ces billets,et j'ai toujours exécuté le sens de mon obligation, mais malheureusement le Tophané me faisait toujours la même réponse, et j'ai été obligé cette fois de les livrer à la police de Constantinople (zaptié négaretiné), et j'ai fait prendre leur garant.

Monseigneur, je ne sais pas si c'est pour arriver à son but que le Sevvète Effendi m'a fait mettre en prison; j'ai été obligé naturellement à nommer des Vékils partout, à donner des requêtes au Mutessarif à envoyer des télégrammes affranchies à la Haute Cour de Justice et au vilayet. J'ai dépensé beaucoup d'argent, et après avoir resté malheureusement trois mois en prison sans secours et sans réponses, et sans aucun arrêt. Enfin il est arrivé un ordre de Constantinople qu'il n'y avait pas besoin d'envoyer ces messieurs ici en prenant des garants.

Alors Liva a fait un mazbatat pour qu'on envoie Sébouhr et Ohannésse sous garde à Kaïsserich, et a envoyé à la police de Constantinople, et on m'a fait sortir de prison (il a fait ce mazbatat en dessous de l'ordre qui était envoyé de Constantinople).

Sans attendre la réponse de ce mazbatat, ils m'ont mis de nouveau en prison, et j'ai été obligé d'envoyer de nouveau des télégrammes partout, et on m'a fait aucun cas de l'ordre que j'avais obtenu de la Haute Cour de Justice, et je me suis plaint de nouveau à la Haute Cour de Justice; j'ai donné des télégraphes affranchies, et cette fois je n'ai pas pu obtenir seulement la réponse même.

Enfin, sur la requête que j'ai présentée la dernière fois à Idaré-Liva, on m'a fait une décision pour demander avec la dépêche télégraphique à la police de Constantinople qui si ces messieurs, Ohannésse et Séhouhr, ont été livrés à la police ou non, et on a expédié cette dépêche, mais votre serviteur, malgré cela, est toujours en prison.

Monseigneur, votre serviteur, je me suis engagé à livrer les personnes de Séhourh et Ohannésse avant la date de soixante et un jours, et je les ai livrés avant cette époque d'après mon engagement; et je suis toujours prêt à les livrer même aujourd'hui à Tophané. Mais malheureusement le Tophané ne les accepte pas. Est-ce que je dois être responsable? Est-ce que je dois souffrir tant que ça d'une erreur commise entre le Liva et le vilayet.

Ce que j'ai souffert depuis une année m'a fait arriver à l'apogée du malheur. Non-seulement j'ai dépensé beaucoup d'argent pour cette affaire, mais avec cela il a fait arriver une crise dans mes affaires.

Ayant perdu le courage et l'espérance de tous les côtés en me confiant à la pitié Impériale, je viens vous supplier, au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale Britannique, et pour l'amour de Dieu, de faire l'intermédiaire auprès du Gouvernement pour sauver votre très-humble serviteur de cet état de choses, que nulle conscience pourrait voir sans en être touchée.

(Signé) KALOUSTE SAGHERYAN.

Inclosure 5 in No. 96.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, September 29, 1879.

Sir,

I RECENTLY visited the northern part of the Sis Mutessarillik in the Adana Vilayet.

Leaving Kaisarieh on the 18th instant, and travelling by Evereh and the Kozan-Dagh, I arrived at Hadjin on the 20th. Staying there a couple of days, I returned by Shahr (marked on maps ruins of Comana) and Tomarze, reaching Kaisarieh on the evening of the 25th.

2. At Hadjin the Armenian community presented an address, a précis of which is inclosed.

3. At Shahr, a village peopled by Armenians from Hadjin, who settled fourteen years ago among the fine ruins of the old Roman and Greek town, there was some distress owing to the inhabitants having been deprived of part of their lands.

When Kozanoglou was at Hadjin that year the Arschairs round Shahr claimed and seized the fields which had been cultivated by the Armenians. The latter, on the restoration of Turkish authority, made complaint to Hadjin, and the Medjliss decided that, as the Arschairs had sown, they should have half this year's crop, the other half going to the inhabitants of Shahr, to whom, as owners, the fields were to be restored after the harvest.

Neither corn nor fields have yet been given up by the Arschairs, and, as this is the sowing season, the continued deprivation of their fields will tell severely on the people of Shahr.

I believe a paper stating the facts of the above case has been given to you; but, as the matter appeared urgent, I wrote to the Kaïmakam of Hadjin expressing a hope that the orders of the Medjliss would be speedily executed.

4. At Tomarze, the Vakeel of the Armenian Monastery complained that the Arazir Mudir of Azizieh would not grant the "Kotchan" necessary to complete the transfer of a field which the monastery had lately bought on the left bank of the Samantia Su.

The same monastery is prevented from occupying land purchased last year by an Arschair, Sertche Hassan, of Suar, a village two hours from Tomarze on the Samantia Su.

5. The insecurity of life and property, referred to by the inhabitants of Hadjin in their petition, is by no means confined to that place. Throughout the districts visited the complaints were the same, and I have already brought to your notice the great increase of highway robbery in the Sandjak of Kaisarieh in my despatch of the 13th October, 1879.

6. The inefficiency of the zaptiehs and the apathy of the authorities are powerfully aided by the diverse Governments into which the country south-west of Kaisarieh is divided. The Valis of Sivas, Angora, and Adana claim and exercise jurisdiction in the Mountains of Anti-Taurus, and the delay caused by reference from one to another gives every facility to the escape of robbers.

An instance of the impunity with which small bands harry the country lately occurred in Tomarze. Four smugglers of tobacco entered the konak, and insulted the Mudir, who had rendered himself unpopular to them. The Mudir was powerless at the time, and the men have not since been punished.

7. This morning I have received a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora, stating that orders have been issued for the capture of Tek Tachak, dead or alive. I hope similar orders may be issued in Sivas and Adana. The capture of the only robber of any note in this part of the country would have a very desirable effect in checking the disorders which now render travel unsafe for small parties of Christians throughout this district.

8. There are not any bodies of robbers in sufficient force to resist the Turkish authority if it were properly exerted; but the distribution of the police force might be made with advantage in such a manner that the Kaïmakams of Azizieh (Sivas Vilayet), Evereh (Angora), and Hadjin (Adana), should always have a small body of mounted zaptiehs ready to patrol the country, and to take immediate action in cases of robbery.

At present the police force of the country seems exhausted in conveying the post, collecting taxes, and acting as escort to those whose safety is obligatory on the Porte, is miserably commanded, and the presence of zaptiehs is dreaded in outlying places.

9. In spite of the fear of robbery which is so widely spread among the natives, I was surprised to meet an American lady travelling between Hadjin and Shahr with only one servant and a native female teacher. Miss Spencer did not express any alarm, but I think the risk she is running can only be justified by the nature of her errand. Miss Spencer is attached to the American Mission at Maresch, and was visiting the Protestant schools in the out-stations.

10. The inadmissibility of Christian witness and the incivility of Government employés to Christians is by no means confined to Hadjin.

The Moslem Courts generally get over the difficulty of refusing to receive Christian evidence by trying the case by Sheriat (Mahommedan law).

The recent changes in the law and administration of justice may possibly do something to remedy the above evils, but the appointment of really honest and capable Governors-General and Mutessarifs would bring about the change more rapidly.

11. With regard to those points of the Hadjin petition which are not touched upon in this despatch, I propose to make certain inquiries when in the Adana Vilayet.

The Kaïmakam of Hadjin is apparently only an instrument in the hands of his superiors, and I should prefer seeing both the Vali of Adana and the Mutessarif of Sis before giving an opinion on certain points brought to notice during my visit to Hadjin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

[Inclosure 6 in No. 96.

Précis of Address presented to Captain H. Cooper, 47th Regiment, by the Bishop and Members of the Armenian Community at Hadjin, September 23, 1879.

AFTER welcoming, the English Consul enumerates in eight Articles the troubles they endured since the beginning of the late war (1877-78) from the Moslem inhabitants of Hadjin, the Circassians in the neighbourhood, and the Government employés.

Article 1. During the last four years more than ten Armenians have been murdered and fifty-five wounded; animals and merchandize stolen to the value of £ T. 6,000. In spite of reiterated complaints no redress can be obtained from the Government.

Art. 2. Insecurity of the highways from the robberies of Arschairs and Circassians.

Art. 3. The Turkish officials insult the Christians by calling them "Giaour," and Christian witness not accepted in the Courts.

Art. 4. No Armenians, except the Treasurer, among the Government officials, though Hadjin is an essentially Armenian town.

Note.—8,000, out of a population of 8,500, being Armenian.

Art. 5. The Christians being in the majority the Kaïmakam should be a Christian.

Art. 6. The Government has confiscated a mill, khan, and three shops belonging to the community, and whose rent formerly went to the Church and school.

Art. 7. Hadjin not being a manufacturing town the surplus population have to seek work, and generally die away from home. Requests that, in the interests of civilization, a doctor may be appointed, and post and telegraph offices opened.

Art. 8. Prays that the taxes may be reduced, owing to the rocky and sterile nature of the soil.

Earnest aid is requested to alter and remedy the state of affairs as above depicted.

The document is sealed, and bears the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Armenian Commission of Hadjin.

No. 97.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Sivas, Anatolia, October* 28, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 15th May last, directing me to inquire into the facts connected with the alleged ill-treatment by the Turkish authorities of Amasia of certain Christian refugees from Soukhoum-Kaleh,

as brought to Mr. Malet's notice by the Rev. George Wood, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on my arrival at Sivas in July last I found that Dr. Nishan Altamian, who had signed the statement of the Protestant Armenians of Amasia, dated the 31st March, 1879, was staying in the town. I saw that gentleman the day after my arrival, and he then told me that the Christian prisoners had been released in consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and that they had been settled down in Christian villages. On a subsequent occasion he stated that the late Cadi of Amasia, Saïd Muhammed Noureddin, had taken two of the children with him to Constantinople; that the Mutessarif of Amasia had purchased two, and Sureya Pasha, the recently deceased Vali of Sivas, one of the children.

I asked Dr. Altamian whether he had any proofs of his statement. He said that he had none, but would obtain them from Amasia. He afterwards received a letter from his son at Amasia reiterating the statement, but bringing forward no evidence.

Circumstances prevented my visiting Amasia during the summer, but during my stay there, at the commencement of the present month, Mr. Block made such inquiry as was possible, and I inclose the Report which he has prepared.

There can be no doubt of the substantial correctness of the statement made by the Protestant community, which was forwarded to me with your Lordship's despatch No. 7.

The facts were known to every one in Amasia; no one attempted to conceal them. The case of the unfortunate woman, who was allowed no attendant during her confinement, which took place in the presence of her fellow-prisoners, was particularly mentioned to me by several persons.

I had a conversation with Chekib Bey, son of the late Sureya Pasha, respecting the boy Nicola purchased by his father. He told me that Sureya Pasha had bought the boy out of pity for the miserable state in which he had found him, and that he had at once granted him his freedom. The boy has accompanied Chekib Bey to Constantinople.

I have brought the case of the children purchased by Fikri Effendi, the Government Clerk at Amasia, to the notice of his Excellency Abedin Pasha, who has taken steps which, I trust, will result in the return of one of the children to its parents.

I have also drawn the attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the case of the woman and child taken to Stamboul by the late Cadi of Amasia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Report by Mr. Block on the Condition of the Circassian Christians in the Amasia District, and on the Sale of some of them as Slaves.

WHEN the Turks evacuated Soukhoum-Kaleh during the late war, a great number of refugees emigrated and landed at Samsoon; these people were in a most miserable and wretched condition, and reduced to such a degree of penury and want, that the more powerful among them took to selling the poorer as slaves. Among these refugees were four brothers—Nicola, Youssouf, Theodori, and Gorghi, and it is from two of these that I obtain a knowledge of the following facts:—

They were settled in Suleiman Keui, twelve hours distant from Amasia. Theodori had two children, one boy named Erkietz, and one girl, Maria. Beslam, himself a refugee of Soukhoum, settled at Keoprü, and a Christian, like the rest, but professing to be a Mussulman, sold these two children to Amourda Gumonk Oglou Fikri Effendi, a clerk at the Amasia Government Konak. About three months ago a trial was instituted against Fikri Effendi for the recovery of the children, and it was acknowledged that they were in his possession, and it was promised that they should be given back to their parents in ten days, but, during the trial, Fikri Effendi's brother, Mehemet, went to Stamboul, taking with him the girl, whom he afterwards sold, so that up to this time neither of them have been returned. Pasculu Agob, a Protestant of Amasia, saw Mehemet on the way to Stamboul, with the girl in his possession.

Gorghi, another of these brothers, had two children, Nicola, 8 years old, and Djish, an elder son, about 12 or 13 years old.

Djelmet, another refugee, who had settled at Keoprü, sold Nicola to the late Vali of Sivas, Sureya Pasha, for 6,000 piastres. The fact was no secret, and he was seen with the Pasha at the time; and the Protestant member of the Medjliss of Amasia tells me that the present Hakim of Amasia saw the child some days ago, when he was on a visit to Sivas. The elder son is now with Djelmet, of Keoprü.

At the time these refugees were in such great want, at the instigation of the Protestants in that district, the Mutessarif of Amasia, who was then travelling in the cazas, ordered them all to be sent to Amasia. This was done, and, moreover, they were imprisoned there and subjected to the most cruel treatment. An account of this has already been given in a Report forwarded by the Protestants of Amasia. All therein stated was corroborated by several persons.

The late Cadi of Amasia, a man whom on the best authority I state to be one of the most corrupt officials they have ever had in Amasia, bought a woman and a child for 10 liras, and took them to Stamboul with him. Notice of the fact was forwarded to Constantinople to the Refugee Commissioner, who met the Cadi on landing and told him what had been said. The Cadi acknowledged he had the slaves, but said he took them out of kindness, as they were in an unprotected state. There the matter dropped.

The Mutessarif bought one for 30 liras, at Marsison, but he has since got rid of the boy, by sending him to Ladik. Since then he has not been seen.

Upon representotions being made by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, an inquiry was made into these matters at Amasia by a categorical note from the Sublime Porte. It was referred by the Mutessarif to the Medjliss, but the Mutessarif expressed his wish to treat the matter in such a way that the members of the Medjliss refused to sign the answer, and the answer ultimately forwarded was sent by the Mutessarif alone. This occurred during Ramazan. The name of the late Cadi mentioned I believe to be Said Muhammed Noureddin, and he returned to Constantinople about five months ago.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

No. 98.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 22. Secret.)

My Lord, *Sivas, Anatolia, October 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch, Secret, dated the 27th October, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Sivas, Anatolia, October 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have been confidentially told that Abedin Pasha received, last week, a telegram from the Finance Minister, directing him to raise at once, and at all costs, a sum of £ T. 10,000 for the Government at Constantinople. Last night another telegram, pressing for an immediate supply of cash, came direct from the Seraskeriate; rather an unusual course, I believe.

One of Zarifi's agents, who holds a "havalé" on the vilayet, told me that Abedin Pasha, on receipt of the first telegram, sent for him and asked for a contribution of £ T. 1,000, promising to give him the first tithe papers of the vilayet. The agent gave the money, but, at an interview with the Vali this morning, he was told that the question of the grant of the first tithe papers must be referred to the

Finance Minister. The agent was much excited, having advanced the money without consultation with M. Zarifi. Contributions of an equal or smaller amount have been taken from other holders of "havalés."

I have formed a very favourable impression of Abedin Pasha from the interviews I have had with him. He is talented, apparently devoted to his country, and anxious to do good and govern well. It is, however, hardly possible for any Governor to act uprightly under the pressure exercised by the Porte. Abedin Pasha has but recently been appointed Vali, and of course knows that his future career largely depends on his speedy compliance with the order he has received. In the present disorganized state of the finances of the vilayet the Vali can only obtain cash by extorting money from the unfortunate peasantry, who are already impoverished to the last degree, or by borrowing from rich local notables on condition that they be allowed to continue their present system of plunder. It remains to be seen how the Vali will escape from the difficult position in which he is placed; in any case his hands must be, to a certain extent, tied as regards matters of reform.

I propose, when I have received fuller information from the other vilayets, to address your Excellency at length on the question of reforms in Anatolia, but I cannot refrain from expressing at once my strong conviction that in matters of finance the Turkish officials are incapable of carrying out reforms; and that, with a very few exceptions, they do not wish for them. The officials are, as a rule, absolutely ignorant of the first principles of finance, and I doubt if they are capable of being taught them. It is impossible for any one who has the slightest acquaintance with the system, or rather non-system, of Turkish book-keeping to believe that financial inspectors, whether European or Turkish, will be able to alter the existing state of affairs. The former will only prove what everyone knows at present, the existence of gross frauds in the collection of the revenue, which cannot be brought home to any one; the latter, after filling their pockets, will return to Stamboul. At Sivas the books have, I know, been for some time in course of preparation for the Inspector.

I cannot but confess that I look upon all real reform as almost hopeless in the present state of affairs; the condition of the people may be slightly ameliorated in so far as regards security to life and property—there the matter will end.

I am not aware of the course which Her Majesty's Government propose to pursue, but, as far as I can judge at present, the only chance of renovating Anatolia and of introducing reforms which shall be real and not merely nominal is for England to take over the government of some central vilayet, such as Sivas, for instance, on somewhat the same conditions as Cyprus, or for a term of years. A vilayet, through which one of the great commercial highways to the interior runs, administered by English officials, would be an example which would force the Porte to introduce reforms in the neighbouring vilayets. Cyprus is an island, rarely visited by Turkish officials, and too remote to have any reflex action on the system of government in the vilayets on the mainland. It would be otherwise with a central vilayet. The latent wealth of all the Anatolian provinces is so great that a very slight development of the resources of any one of them would soon repay any increased expenditure which might result from English administration. The probability, however, is, that the cost of English would be much less than that of the existing Turkish Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Sivas, Anatolia, October 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches relating to affairs in the Sivas Vilayet which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, October 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to forward herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Cooper, 47th Regiment, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia, respecting two cases in which murderers have taken refuge in the Caza of Azizieh, in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have brought the names of the men mentioned by Captain Cooper to the notice of Abedin Pasha, and trust measures may be taken to secure their arrest.

His Excellency has recently appointed a new Kaïmakam to the Azizieh Caza, Muhammed Amin Bey, an Albanian, who will, I hope, take energetic steps to control the lawless spirits in that district. The late Acting Kaïmakam appears to have had little influence or power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, September 27, 1879.

Sir,

DURING my visit to Hadjin the delay in the execution of justice consequent on the recent transfer of certain districts in the Anti-Taurus from the Azizieh to the Hadjin Kaïmakamlik was frequently brought to notice.

Azizieh being in the Sivas Vilayet and Hadjin in that of Adana, it often happens that cases originated in Sivas have to be disposed of in Adana, and there is a very general complaint as to the difficulty of obtaining assistance from the authorities of Azizieh as regards the apprehension of criminals.

2. The following instances seem deserving of attention:—

(1.) Kirkor, aged 22 years, the son of Guenzu Gudjdjukoglou, an Armenian of Hadjin, was killed about fourteen months ago at Yaghtasan, a village four hours from Hadjin. The murderers were brought to trial, but were released by Kozanoglou, on his arrival in Hadjin, before sentence was pronounced.

The Kaïmakam of Hadjin informed me that he could not recapture the chief actor, Aumet, as he had taken refuge with Mehmed Agha Esseloglou Topal at Yaikdi, near Sivas, in the Azizieh Caza.

(2.) Duad Sultan, aged 30, son of Gaurbot Bey, a Circassian, of Maghra (Dallar), who was going with horses for sale to Adana, was murdered in April 1878 at Dikilitash by his brother-in-law, Hadji Dadur, and the latter's servant, Hadji Omer.

The murder is supposed to have resulted from a quarrel about some inheritance. Hadji Dadur returned to Maghra with the stolen horses, and stated what he had done.

Gaurbot Bey, the father of the murdered man, appealed to Azizieh, in which caza Maghra then was, but the caza being changed soon after the case was transferred to Sis.

In the meantime the murderers are at large, and, according to Gaurbot Bey, in the village of Alti Keseh, two hours from Azizieh.

3. From what I have continually heard in Kaisarieh, and from what I gathered at Hadjin, it appears that the Nahié of Sivas in the Azizieh Caza is the chief resort of the robbers and murderers of this part of Anatolia.

Were it possible to bring home a charge of crime against any of the robbers who now take refuge in Azizieh it would have a good effect in helping to restore public confidence in the security of life and property in this part of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, October 28, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th October, I beg to add to the causes of disorder in the vilayet:—

1. The general state of disorganization into which all branches of the administration fell during the illness of the late Sureya Pasha.

2. The fact that the Colonel (Mir Alai) of Zaptiehs has for a year been paralyzed and speechless, and that the second in command, Binbashi, is a man of more than forty years' service, who has been content to allow matters to shape their own course.

3. The difficulty of apprehending criminals in districts near the borders of the vilayet, as the zaptiehs of one vilayet cannot arrest a man in another without obtaining a warrant from that vilayet. Robbers have, therefore, only to escape across the border to be practically safe. This difficulty is seriously felt in the southern districts of Sivas, where the Vilayets of Sivas, Angora, and Adana meet.

His Excellency Abedin Pasha, since his arrival, has appointed as Binbashi of Zaptiehs a young man of considerable energy, who accompanied him from Diarbekir; and I understand that the Porte has approved of the appointment of the present Binbashi at Diarbekir, who is said to be an energetic man, as Mir Alai, of the Sivas Vilayet.

I have also to report that Yahya Bey, the Kurd Chief, has been taken after a struggle, in which an officer and a private of zaptiehs were wounded, and that Alishan Bey, Chief of the Kizilbash Kurds, Kurd Muhammed Ali, who murdered a Christian some time ago, and other men, whose crimes have been long unpunished, are now in the Sivas prison.

His Excellency has sent Musa Pasha, with 200 regular cavalry, to the Amasia Mutessariflik to break up the bands of Circassians which have lately pillaged some Christian villages, and to preserve order in that district.

The measures which Abedin Pasha is taking will, I trust, soon restore something like order in the vilayet, but he has an extremely difficult task to perform owing to the powerful protectors which the robbers have in nearly every Court.

It is to be hoped that one result of the elections now going on in the cazas will be the return of more honest and independent members to the various Courts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, Anatolia, October 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the substance of two telegrams which I addressed to your Excellency with reference to the horses of the Circassians of the Uzun Yailas.

The Circassians have for the last fifteen years been accustomed to send about 3,000 horses, with a certain number of attendants, to winter in the Adana Vilayet. This year, when on the point of starting, they were told that they would not be allowed to enter the Adana Vilayet. Several of the Beys and headmen came to Sivas to represent the matter to the Vali; they also asked my assistance. I saw Abedin Pasha on the 13th instant, and he sent a telegram to the Porte, which he has since repeated twice without eliciting an answer. Finding that no answer was received I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 26th instant, and again on the 27th, and I have this day sent a telegram to the Vali of Adana.

The Uzun Yailas are the grazing grounds of the Circassians on the high plateau in which the Sihun and Gurun Rivers take their rise. The plateau is about 5,500 feet above the sea; it is entirely destitute of trees, and the winter is one of great severity. There is little or no material for building, and, even if there were, sheds could not be erected in time to save the horses. Snow has already fallen in the Yailas, and, as your Excellency knows, winter sets in on these plateaux with

slight warning; if the horses are caught by deep snow they will all perish. The wintering place of the Circassians is an uninhabited district near the lower course of the Sihun River, so that they trespass on no one's rights, and any anticipated disturbance could be easily checked by sending a few zaptiehs with them.

It is by such ill-considered measures that the Porte either ruins the people or forces them to become robbers. The abandonment by the Circassians of their semi-nomadic habits is no doubt desirable in the interests of the State, but an order such as that issued is not the way to obtain the desired result.

The Circassians have been to see me several times, and I must say that they have behaved well in the matter, better than many more civilized people would have done under the circumstances; they are, however, fast losing hope. Their whole wealth lies in their horses; and no one can tell what they may do when they find inevitable ruin staring them in the face.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 99.

Substance of a Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, October 20, 1879.

THE Circassians of Sivas have for fifteen years been accustomed to winter their horses in the Adana Vilayet. The Governor of that province has forbidden them to do this. The Circassians have received no proper notice, and if not allowed to go in six days many hundred horses will die. Abedin Pasha telegraphed this, but the Porte has not answered. Can you help? the matter is urgent.

With reference to a previous despatch, the Kurd Bey, with other robbers, is imprisoned.

Inclosure 6 in No. 99.

Substance of a Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, October 27, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 20th, can you do anything about the horses? The Vali has telegraphed again, and so have the Circassians. The matter is very urgent.

Inclosure 7 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, Anatolia, October* 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a telegram I addressed to your Excellency on the 10th instant relative to disturbances in the Dersim district, as well as a translation of the telegram which I received from the Bishop of Arabkir. The Bishop's telegram was at once repeated to Major Trotter, Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 99.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Sivas, October* 10, 1879.

ARMENIAN Bishop of Arabkir telegraphs that a band of sixty armed Kurds yesterday sacked the village of Meyardoun, in the Dersim district; the Kurds afterward crossed the Euphrates to the Aghid Nahié. He asks for immediate protection to life and property.

Inclosure 9 in No. 99.

The Bishop of Arabkir to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Malatia, October* 10, 1879.

ON account of the complaints made by the Armenian villages near Dersim against the robbery and oppression of Jan Oglou Ibrahim, a bandit of that place, by reason of the withdrawal of the soldiers, sixty armed men, Kurds, yesterday, having sacked the village of Meyardoun, crossed the Euphrates, and terrified the people of the adjacent villages of Aghid Nahié. We ask for protection of life and property.

No. 100.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Sivas, November* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the treatment of the Circassians of the Sivas Vilayet by the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November* 3, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th October, I have the honour to forward the substance of two telegrams which I have since addressed to your Excellency, and, at the same time, to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 28th, received 29th October, informing me that the Foreign Minister had promised to telegraph with regard to the Circassian horses.

I understand that the telegram of the Foreign Minister simply asked for information, though the Porte must have been fully informed, as his Excellency the Vali had, I believe, previously sent no less than four telegrams explaining the matter, and requesting authority to send the Circassians to the Adana Vilayet. I may add that I have received no answer to my telegram to the Vali of Adana, and that a telegram from the Vali of Sivas to Zia Pasha also remains unanswered.

I would beg to recapitulate briefly the dates connected with this unfortunate affair. On the 18th October I spoke to Abedin Pasha on the subject, and his Excellency sent a telegram to the Porte, which he has since repeated three times; on the 20th I telegraphed to your Excellency, and again on the 27th, no answer having been received. I also telegraphed on the 31st and on the 2nd November. The Porte has thus had ample time for making the necessary arrangements.

During the last few days heavy snow has fallen; the Circassians whose entire wealth lies in their horses, seeing ruin staring them in the face, have become excited, and they are, I hear, preparing to move towards the Aleppo Vilayet, with a view of trying to sell such of their horses as they can get through the snow; in any case many, especially mares in foal, must die.

It seems inconceivable that the Turkish Government should at this moment, with a Kurd rebellion threatening on the frontier, run the risk, by an act of great injustice, of losing several hundred horses—in themselves a source of wealth to the country—and of raising a feeling of discontent among the Circassians, which may lead to serious consequences. The Circassians will not, as the Turkish peasantry do, sit down quietly and lose all without a struggle; they will, I fear, take to plundering, and if they do, the Turkish Government will be alone to blame.

Nothing could have been better hitherto than the conduct of the Circassians in the matter of the horses. They have waited patiently for three weeks for an

answer from the Porte, and have not yet received any reply. The question is one which might have been decided in five minutes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Substance of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, October 31, 1879.

NO orders have been received respecting the Circassian horses. If they are not sent serious disturbances may ensue.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

Substance of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, November 2, 1879.

DEEP snow has fallen. There is great excitement among the Circassians, who will be ruined.

There has been no answer from the Porte or Adana about the horses. The Ottoman Government should act at once.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 980. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 5, 1879.

PRINCE LABANOFF called upon me yesterday, on his return from Livadia. He went there last week to see the Emperor. His Excellency informs me that he has obtained leave from His Imperial Majesty to go for a short time to Russia, and that he intends to avail himself of it in the course of next week.

He will afterwards come back to Constantinople to present his letters of recall, and will then proceed to occupy his post as Ambassador to England.

In the course of conversation his Excellency expressed himself in very warm terms of the Sultan, saying that he had a very high esteem for His Majesty, and that he considered him a man animated by the best intentions, and of very superior intelligence. But, unfortunately, his Excellency went on to say, he allowed himself to be influenced by badly-disposed and mischievous people. If such persons could be removed from the Palace, and His Majesty could be placed under proper guidance, he could be made "a model Sovereign."

I expressed my general agreement with my Russian colleague, who, for the first time, has used this language to me with regard to the Sultan.

Prince Labanoff observed that he had learnt, with great regret, the resolution taken by Her Majesty's Government to send the British fleet into Turkish waters. It had naturally been looked upon as a threat and demonstration against the Sultan and his Government, and, if it had been put into execution, might have led to disastrous consequences. It was his opinion that the Turkish Empire was doomed, and he believed that its inevitable fate could not be long deferred; but he thought that it should be the policy of England and of the other European Powers to act as a "parachute" to break its downfall, and not to bring about a sudden catastrophe which might lead to serious complications and very disastrous results. If the Sultan were dethroned, as was not improbable, he would be succeeded by his brother, Reshad Effendi, who was a "crétin," and, by all accounts, a man of a very bad disposition.

As our conversation was of a private character, I venture to ask your Lordship to consider my report of it as confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 982.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia a despatch giving an account of the causes of the disorder reigning in the Vilayet of Sivas, and of the well-directed endeavours that are being made by Abedin Pasha, the Vali of Sivas, to promote the welfare of the province.

Thinking that this despatch might be of interest to the Ottoman Government, I have taken upon myself to communicate a translation of it to Sawas Pasha, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 103.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 983.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Porte extracts from Major Trotter's despatch to me No. 108 of the 1st instant relative to the condition of the inhabitants of the Sandjak of Bayazid. Major Trotter has already forwarded to your Lordship the despatch in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 104.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 984.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the report of a speech made by Abedin Pasha, on his entering upon the government of the Vilayet of Sivas.

It was sent to me privately by Colonel Wilson, but I forward it to your Lordship, as it is not without interest. I have, unfortunately, so frequently to complain of Turkish functionaries, that I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of being able to submit to your Lordship anything in their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Abédin Pasha's Speech, as written down by M. Garabed Tchetchian immediately after delivery.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been graciously pleased to appoint me Vali of Sivas, keeping, at the same time, my appointment as Chief Commissioner of Reforms.

I, an humble servant of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, can do nothing without the assistance of the Almighty; hence I humbly invoke the Divine grace and assistance in the proper discharge of the duties which devolve upon me, in accordance with the will of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, our benevolent Sovereign, the Padishah.

I have already spoken to you, on my arrival, of the principles I intend to follow. To repeat them on this occasion would be like pulling down a finished

house and rebuilding it. I have no occasion either to communicate to you the will of our gracious Sovereign, His Imperial Majesty the Padishah, for you have already heard it fully stated in his sovereign message the Firman.

There is not, and there will not be, any distinction in my eyes between the rich and the poor. Those who behave themselves properly, and act in accordance with the law, shall, rich or poor, be dearer to me than my own dear brothers, and I will not hesitate to sacrifice my soul for their good. Those, however, who set themselves in opposition to the law, and are swindlers or receivers of bribes, whoever they may be, shall be my chief enemies, and I will be the cause of their destruction.

As the seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter—are distinguished by their respective temperatures, so Valis are distinguished by their acts; but as trees, vegetables, and such natural products of the earth grow, and, after a lapse of time, bear fruit, so time is necessary before the acts of Valis can be fully seen, examined, and criticized.

You must not expect me, or others situated in similar positions, to do everything in five minutes, or in five days; that is not the manner in which a Vali works, it is rather the way in which a juggler performs. Hence you must not lose hope, you must not despair, when you see that your expectations have not been instantly realized.

And now, addressing myself in particular to the people, three primary duties devolve upon you—(1) to be strictly obedient in all cases to the laws of the country, and especially to those of your religion; (2) to be quiet and peaceable in the conduct of your business; (3) to impart a sound education and solid principles to your children. If you wish to leave a good name in the world, if you wish your children to live a happy life after your death, if you wish, I say, to be everlastingly remembered amongst your countrymen, instruct your children, educate them, teach them. Let the world proudly point to you as an example. You may have riches, wealth, influence, and you may leave all these to your children after your death, but remember that they are not permanent, they are not lasting; you may lose them all in a day, nothing may be left. They are here to-day, they are gone to-morrow; but education, instruction, knowledge, are lasting, permanent. They are the only acquisitions which can change your condition and that of your country.

Oh people! God be with you.

No. 105.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 987.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1276 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Colonel Wilson respecting the return of Messrs. Block and Eyres to Constantinople to undergo their final examination.

I have much pleasure in calling your Lordship's attention to the satisfactory report that Colonel Wilson gives of the conduct of these gentlemen. Your Lordship will perceive that Colonel Wilson urges very strongly that the interpreters attached to his Consulate-General should be Englishmen, on account of the confidence with which they inspire the persons of different nationalities with whom they have to deal. These persons, Colonel Wilson states, are often at variance with each other for political or religious reasons, and will give information to an Englishman which they would not trust to a native of the country.

Colonel Wilson also states that the service of Her Majesty's Consulate-General might have suffered from Mr. Block having been so suddenly called away, had he not already engaged the services of an American gentleman as Mr. Block's assistant.

As regards the concluding paragraph of Colonel Wilson's despatch, I have informed him that, as soon as the students have qualified for permanent employment in the service, one of them will, I have reason to believe, be placed under his orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November 3, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 1st instant directing me to instruct Messrs. Block and Eyres to proceed to Constantinople to undergo their final examination.

I telegraphed to Captain Stewart at Koniah the same day; Mr. Block will leave Sivas on the 5th.

I would beg to take this opportunity of bringing to your Excellency's notice the valuable assistance which has been rendered to me by Mr. Block during the time he has been attached to the Consulate-General. I believe Captain Stewart has been equally pleased with the work of Mr. Eyres, whose health, I regret to say, has been temporarily affected by exposure to the sun whilst travelling.

I beg to draw your Excellency's attention to the inconvenience which has arisen from the suddenness of the order directing Mr. Block to proceed to Constantinople, an order for which I was quite unprepared. Fortunately I had already engaged the services of Mr. Garabel Tchetchian, an Armenian gentleman, educated at Roberts' college, to assist Mr. Block in the constantly increasing work of my office. Otherwise I should have been left without the means of communicating with the Government of the vilayet, as the only two Armenians at Sivas who speak French fluently are in Government employ.

There are many points upon which it is desirable to obtain information for Her Majesty's Government that Turks, Greeks, Circassians, and Kurds will not discuss through the medium of an Armenian interpreter, and feelings of hostility exist between the Orthodox Catholic and Protestant sections of the community.

These feelings, as well as those between the different races, are intensified at Sivas, where the people, probably from their slight intercourse with the outer world, have a wide reputation for intolerance.

I consider that it would be quite impossible to conduct the business of the Consulate-General efficiently without the assistance of an Englishman as interpreter, and hope your Excellency will kindly take steps to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Block, and call as early as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 106.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 999.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a telegram from Samik Pasha, sent to me by the Sultan, announcing that tranquillity had been completely restored in Kurdistan, and that the tribes which were recently in rebellion have submitted to the Imperial Government.

In thanking His Majesty, through Munir Bey, for the communication, and in congratulating him upon the success of the expedition, I have expressed an earnest hope that His Majesty will now give stringent orders to the local authorities to afford protection to his unfortunate Christian subjects, who have hitherto suffered so greatly from the depredations of the Kurdish tribes and the oppression of the Kurdish Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Samik Pasha to His Majesty the Sultan.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 7/4 Novembre, 1879.*

LE Commandant des troupes, qui, d'après mon télégramme du 23 Octobre, avait été envoyé du côté de Hikiari, est de retour après avoir rempli sa mission.

D'après ce qu'il raconte, les troupes Impériales ont été reçues de la part des populations, des Chefs, et Notables de la localité avec reconnaissance et des égards extraordinares. Quant à la soumission et l'obéissance aux ordres du Gouvernement, elles sont parfaites et l'ordre général, et la tranquillité publique sont rétablis, grâce aux efforts de Sa Majesté Impériale, et il ne reste plus la moindre trace des événements passés. D'après les nouvelles arrivées de Mossul, la tranquillité et le bon ordre désirables continuent à y régner. Ceci n'est pas le résultat de mes faibles efforts, mais bien l'effet des mesures sages dictées par Sa Majesté Impériale. Je suis heureux de l'annoncer.

No. 107.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 1000.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, forwarding a petition signed by a large number of Armenians, who state that they have been compelled to leave their homes and seek refuge at Aleppo by the outrages and oppression they suffered at the hands of the Kurds. I have called the attention of the Porte to the statements of the petitioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, October* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a petition addressed to your Excellency, signed by 1,520 Gregorian Armenians of this city, with reference to outrages alleged to have been perpetrated by the Kurds on their families and co-religionists in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Petition.

Illustrious Ambassador of Great Britain,

THE undersigned Armenian artisans, natives of the Provinces of Saroun, Mouche, Van, Arabghis, &c., and now strangers in Aleppo, respectfully beg to represent to your Excellency (who is the Philo Representative of Great Britain), and who already knows the social state of the Armenians, that we were driven by the persecution of the surrounding Kurds to leave the homes of our fathers and to repair to this central town and live there close to each other for mutual self-defence.

We beg to say that we, however, still are a prey to these savages, and that in the midst of sufferings of all sorts of pain, calamities, privations, and atrocities we are trying to obtain our daily livelihood in a foreign place and with the utmost difficulty.

In the meantime we have hopes that, thanks to the European Governments, the rights due to us as human beings will impartially be accorded to us; and, in fact, Armenia has been mentioned and reforms and improvements have been promised. We have for longer than a year been expecting to enjoy the fruits of such reforms.

Certain Commissioners have, indeed, made some superficial show of reforms at Dikranagherd, Van, Mouche, and Dersim. We are informed by daily correspondence that as soon as they left these places the savage Kurds have returned to their atrocities worse than before.

Some Kurd Beys who were legally sentenced by the Courts of Dikranagherd are now at Aleppo, and are doing their best to return to their native land.

The Undersigned, deprived of the possession of their fathers, apply to the humanity and compassion of your Excellency, as the last hope of their delivery from the unbearable yoke of the exile, and beg that your Excellency will be pleased to be their deliverer from such misfortunes.

The Undersigned shall have the honour to continue to transmit to your Excellency detailed accounts of the nature, locality, and unbearable character of our condition.

Aleppo, October 11, 1879.

We have, &c.
(About 1,250 signatures, among which some Greek names and one Turkish.)

I hereby certify that the above signatures are those of the Armenian strangers now in Aleppo, and at their request forward this petition to the honourable Ambassador of Great Britain at Constantinople through Mr. Henderson, British Consul at Aleppo.

November 17 (? *October*), 1879 (o.s.)
(L.S.) Father THEMOTHEOS HANESSIAN,
Vicar-General of the Diocese of Aleppo.

No. 108.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 1001.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Wilson under flying seal relative to the refusal of the Turkish authorities to allow the Circassians of Uzun Yailar to winter their horses in the Vilayet of Adana, as has hitherto been the custom.

I am happy to state that this question has been satisfactorily settled, as, in consequence of my representations, the Porte has sent orders to the provincial authorities to allow the horses to proceed to their winter quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 109.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 1002.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of the present condition of the Armenian population in the district of Van. I have requested Captain Clayton to report upon the statements contained in this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Monsigneur Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES rapports qui me parviennent des autorités ecclésiastiques de Van me font un devoir d'appeler l'attention sérieuse de votre Excellence sur la déplorable situation des Arméniens de cette province. Rien n'a été fait pour améliorer le sort de ces populations, et on a essayé d'aggraver les maux dont ils souffrent depuis longtemps. L'insurrection du Kurdistan, laquelle est encore un mystère pour nous, a servi de masque à l'oppression calculée des hordes Mussulmanes en même temps

qu'à l'inertie et à la malveillance des autorités. Celles-ci poursuivent une politique désastreuse, en, entretenant la haine et l'animosité entre Arméniens et Kurdes, qui, sans les procédés des fonctionnaires Turcs, auraient pu vivre la plupart du temps en parfaite harmonie. Samik Pasha qu'on disait chargé de châtier le Chéik Abédoullah et ses complices, paraît avoir une toute autre mission. On croit savoir à Van qu'il a envoyé au Chéik une décoration, un sabre d'honneur, et de l'argent. Il a comblé d'honneurs plusieurs Chefs Kurdes qui auraient mérité la corde. On compte parmi ces Chefs le sanguinaire Moussa, qui a dévalisé quatre villages Arméniens et brûlé plusieurs autres et qui, dans le village de Bezdig, a passé au bout de sa pique les caleçons des dames Chrétiennes. Il ne serait donc pas étonnant d'apprendre, M. l'Ambassadeur, que les députés de la population Arménienne de cette province réunis à Van, ont pris le $\frac{1}{16}$ Octobre la résolution de ne pas se présenter aux Commissaires Impériaux qui, d'ailleurs, n'ont pas réalisé depuis six mois la moindre réforme à Erzéroum, et de réclamer énergiquement une Commission Internationale pour l'exécution de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

En prenant la liberté de porter ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je suis plein d'espoir qu'elle voudra bien appuyer, auprès du Gouvernement qu'elle représente si dignement à Constantinople, sur la nécessité d'envoyer en Arménie une Commission Internationale, chargée d'exercer sans plus de retard ce droit de surveillance que l'Article LXI a garanti aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Patriarche NERCÈS.

No. 110.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 1009.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Angora, November 8, 1879.*

I BEG to inform your Excellency that since Monday, the 3rd instant, the Prime Minister, Said Pasha, and Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, Minister of the Interior, have been in daily communication with Khourshood Pasha, the Governor-General of this province, by means of cypher telegrams with reference to the possibility of raising an internal loan.

The amount allotted this province is 40,000 Turkish liras, or 36,000*l*. The Governor-General, in reply, doubts the possibility of raising such a sum unless some forcible pressure was applied. His Excellency has been accordingly directed to specify what measures of this kind his Excellency considers necessary that the requisite powers may be given him, and these measures are accordingly under consideration.

In obedience to a Foreign Office Circular, dated 11th October, I mark this despatch Confidential, as the publication of the information it contains would compromise me seriously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 111.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 63. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, November 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of four important despatches from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, to which I would beg to draw your Lordship's most careful attention.

With regard to despatch No. 14, Political, I regret to have to state that I learn from other and independent sources that his Excellency Samih Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief of the 4th Corps d'Armée, and now intrusted with the pacification of Kurdistan, has been taking presents of horses, shawls, &c., right and left, thereby proving himself a worthy successor to his Excellency Dervish Pasha, now in command of the 1st Corps d'Armée (Imperial Guard) at Constantinople.

The Moussa Agha mentioned in the same despatch is the individual referred to at length in my despatch No. 90 of the 19th September, and I would particularly wish to draw your Lordship's attention to the way in which this villain has been rewarded for his evil deeds and his insults to the Representative of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have informed Captain Clayton that he was quite right, under the circumstances, to intimate to Samih Pasha that it was time Captain Clayton's official visit should be returned.

Despatch No. 15 is a picture of the anarchy existing in Van Vilayet, which I think it highly desirable should be brought to the knowledge of the Sultan and his Ministers.

With reference to despatch No. 16, I have the honour to state that on receipt thereof I immediately telegraphed to Captain Clayton that I entirely approved of his conduct in the matter of the insult offered to the British Government, and, I added, that as I was leaving in a day or two for Diarbekir, he should, if necessary, communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador direct by telegraph.

I am of opinion that if Captain Clayton receives a suitable public apology from the Ferik Pasha (Major-General), it will not be desirable to take any further official notice of the matter, as if the affair can be satisfactorily arranged without reference to superior authorities there is less likelihood of bad blood being raised, which it is on many accounts desirable to avoid.

If, on the other hand, the Ferik Pasha declines to apologize, I think it most desirable that Her Majesty's Government should insist on the removal from command of an official of high rank who publicly mocks at His Majesty's Representatives in their endeavours to carry out reform in Turkey in Asia.

As the post from Erzeroum to Diarbekir in winter takes from five to seven weeks in transit, I have instructed Captain Clayton, while sending despatches direct to me at Diarbekir, to send copies direct to the Embassy and the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Van, October 16, 1879.*

IN amplification and elucidation of the subject-matter of my last despatch, viz., the attitude and sentiments of the Armenians in these parts, I would offer the following observations:—

There is a tolerably sharp line of demarcation between the poor and uneducated peasantry in the country districts and the better off, better educated, and more enlightened population of the towns. The Russian Armenian from Tiflis, whom I mentioned in a previous despatch as having come to select a locality for the establishment of an agricultural school, informs me that he has found the peasantry universally desirous of coming under Russian rule. They have no other wish than that of being able to live quietly and securely without fear of robbery and outrage on the part of the Kurds, and this they think they would obtain under

Russian government. My informant's opportunities of acquiring an insight into the feelings of the peasantry have been favourable, as he has been visiting some of the country districts with the view of examining into their agricultural capabilities, and I can see no reason for his wishing to deceive me on this point.

As regards the educated Armenians of the towns, they know that if annexed to Russia they would not be permitted freedom of the press, and that their national aspirations would be checked. What they therefore at present wish is the carrying out of reforms through the influence of the European Powers, especially England. They do not, however, rely on English influence alone, but desire that that of Russia may be thrown into the same scale, and if they come to think that England's intervention will fail to obtain for them an improvement in their condition, I think that the misery and complaints of the peasantry will drive them into asking Russia for more active interference. They would do this hoping to obtain autonomy, to which their attention has been turned, and the difficulties in the way of which they hardly comprehend, but a much longer continuance in the present state of anarchy, injustice, and misrule might bring them to crave even Russian sovereignty rather than remain in their present condition.

I endeavour, and I hope not entirely without success, to encourage them and prevent them from taking any rash step, by pointing out what has already been done in the Diarbekir Vilayet and elsewhere, but I fear that at any moment some provocation may cause an outbreak, the consequences of which might be most serious. Peasant deputations have said to me more than once lately, "We cannot support our present position much longer; women and children and all will have to fight; better to die than to live longer, as we are now doing."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Van, October* 18, 1879.

I REGRET to say that the aspect of affairs here appears to me by no means satisfactory at present.

Samih Pasha arrived here on the 9th instant, and since his arrival an event of sinister omen has taken place, namely, the appointment of the notorious robber chief of the Haidaranli Kurds, Moussa Agha, to be Mudir of Abagha, a district between Van, Bayazid, and the Persian frontier. This can hardly fail to encourage the rest of the Kurds in their malpractices, and I hear that a protest to be signed both by Turks and Christians is being got up for presentation to the authorities. I have reason to suspect, but no actual proof, that corrupt influences have had some share in the appointment.

An Armenian merchant, who conducts mercantile transactions for the Kurds, informed me that he had recently supplied Moussa Agha with £T. 700, and it is difficult to see to what legitimate use he could have put the money. I am also informed that, when Samih Pasha was Vali of Erzeroum some few years ago, he did not bear a very high character for incorruptibility, and especially that he received large presents from the family of Moussa Agha.

When this appointment became known, the Russian Vice-Consul came to me and asked me what I proposed to do. I said that I was going to see the Vali Pasha about the possibility of going to Hakkiari, and that I should take the opportunity of asking him if the report were true, and of protesting against the appointment if it proved to be true. The Russian Vice-Consul said he should do the same. I accordingly asked the Vali if the report were true. He replied that Moussa Agha already had the rank of Mudir, and that it was, therefore, no new thing; that the object was to reassure the Kurds who had fled across the Persian frontier, so that they might come back and be captured; and the Ferik Pasha, who was present, added the singular defence that the Agha was not a great malefactor, that he had only committed robberies and burned villages, but had never murdered anyone. I said that I considered the explanation unsatisfactory, and that the affair could not but produce a very prejudicial effect. I believe the Russian Vice-Consul expressed himself to the Vali to the same effect.

Other Kurdish Chiefs have been received with honour by Samih Pasha, and his

aides-de-camp have been sent to Sheikh Ubeydullah, as he informed me, to give the Sheikh good advice, and for other purposes. Rumour says that they take with them a decoration for the Sheikh.

I fear that all that will be done will be to quiet down the rebellious Kurdish Chiefs by fair words and rewards, so as to extinguish, or at all events smother up for a time, the embers of revolt, without doing anything effectual to put a stop to the outrages and robberies from which the unfortunate rural population is now suffering.

The persecution of the peasantry I believe to require more attention than the danger of revolt, which I think to be now but small, the history of the attempt made showing the difficulty of uniting the various tribes in a common enterprise. A large emigration of Christians is taking place into Russian and Persian territory, which indicates the magnitude of the suffering, as in other respects the conditions of life are more favourable here than across the frontiers.

The Armenians believe that the Government is acting purposely so as to force the Christians to leave the country, that there may be nothing to interfere with Mussulman supremacy. There are plausible grounds for this opinion. The Christians form a majority of the population of this vilayet, and the Armenians very foolishly made great demonstrations here on the arrival of the foreign Consuls. This the Pasha reported to Constantinople, very likely exaggerating its importance, and the Turkish Government may think the Christian population dangerous to its rule, and, therefore, be glad if they are forced to emigrate from its territory. I, however, do not myself think that this view is correct, especially considering what has already been done for the protection of the Christians in the Diarbekir Vilayet, and I think that the state of affairs may be otherwise explained. I believe that the Government is slack in restraining malpractices, firstly, because, startled by the recent revolt, it is afraid of provoking the Kurds; secondly, on account of the corruption rampant among influential personages; and, thirdly, on account of a general carelessness about what happens to non-Mussulmans, intensified, no doubt, into active hostility against the Armenians by the demonstrations on the arrival of the Consuls.

The day Samih Pasha arrived Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, and I sent our dragoman to meet him and welcome him, and the next morning we sent to ask him when he would receive a visit from us. He excused himself for that day on the plea of fatigue, and appointed the following day. I accordingly called on him on the day appointed, and was received with sufficient courtesy. Major Kamsaragan called the same day. Four days elapsed without the Pasha making any sign of returning our visits, and then Major Kamsaragan, having consulted me, we sent to the Pasha to ask when he would return our calls, and on this hint he came the next day. I considered it necessary to take some step, as I believed that his delay was for a purpose.

When we first arrived here, the Armenians, as I have already reported, made a demonstration, thereby exciting bad feeling among the Turks, and I believe the Vali Pasha said to some Turks, who expressed to him their fear that our arrival would interfere with the old order of things, that they need not be alarmed, that these men were of no importance, and that their coming would not make any change. I therefore believe that Samih Pasha's delay in returning our visits was intended to show the Turks that our position was not of any importance, and I trust that I was right in the course I pursued.

I wished very much to proceed to Hakkiari with Toussoun Pasha, the new Mutessarif of Hakkiari, who left Van for Bashkala the day before yesterday, but the Vali Pasha made such strong objections on the ground of the roads not being yet safe that I was forced to yield.

I may say that Toussoun Pasha, who bears the character of being an upright and energetic man, made a strong protest to the Vali and Samih Pasha with respect to Moussa Agha's appointment, saying that it was disgraceful, and that if such things were to take place then the end of the Turkish Empire was indeed near at hand.

I have received from Armenian sources some statistics of the population of the Vilayet of Van. I have not yet been able to verify them extensively, but the few instances I have been able to verify appear tolerably accurate. I append the general results, and will send you more details when I have been able to verify the numbers rather more. The numbers are those of males of all ages.

Vilayet of Van, excluding Mush and Bitlis: Armenians, 137,020; Kurds, 42,279; Turks, 19,835; Nestorians, 86,768; Jews, 363.

In these figures the nomad Kurds are not included. I hope before long to obtain statistics of Mush and Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir; *Van, October 24, 1879.*

IN accordance with the wish expressed in your letter to me of the 12th October, I append a list of the robberies and outrages that have been brought to my notice since my arrival in Van on the 14th August, in order to give an idea of their extent and number.

June 24th.—Hamzo, a Haidaranli Chief, entered Viggastroog, a village in Arjesh, with sixteen armed horsemen, defiled several girls and young married women, cut off the ears of two men and wounded two others, and carried off property worth 17,000 piastres.

Later in the same day he entered another village, Karakeshish, and carried off goods and church plate valued at 15,000 piastres.

June (latter end of month).—At a village named Giadalvah, three hours from Van, the Kurds belonging to the neighbourhood burned large quantities of hay and straw, so that the cattle are starving, and a Chief carried off 11,000 piastres and a quantity of corn.

August (first week).—Kurdish tribes attacked the Nestorian village of Gevver, killed three men and wounded seven, plundered and burned houses and churches, and carried off more than 3,000 sheep.

August 8th.—A man and woman with a donkey laden with meal were met on the road by Kurds, robbed of meal and clothes, and told to go and greet the Consuls.

August 27th.—The Kurds carried off 400 sheep belonging to a monastery, eight hours north of Van.

August 27th.—The Kurds carried off a number of sheep from a village two hours east of Van.

August 27th.—The Kurds carried off cattle, agricultural implements, &c., from Boghazkesen, a village near the Persian frontier. Two months previously the Kurds had burned a large quantity of hay.

August 29th.—Some Kurds came to village of Mashgakdakh, four hours south-east from Van, carried off twenty chaps corn and two sheep, and threatened the villagers.

August (latter half of month).—Kurds burned a number of sheep stalls, and stole four mules from a man of Shaddakh.

August (last week).—Kurds burned all the harvest of a man in a village in Amarash district.

August (during month).—The Kurds carried off a quantity of hay from the village of Mandané, nine hours from Van towards Khoi, and cut off the water so that the fields could not be irrigated.

September 1st.—Kurds took eighty sheep from village of Vosgipakh.

September 1st.—A watchmaker of Van was stopped on his road back to Van from a neighbouring village, and robbed of his money by a notorious robber.

September 5th.—400 Kurdish horsemen came from Persian frontier to a village one hour from Bashkala, and carried off everything, sheep, horses, clothes, &c., killing the herdsman and violating a woman. The villagers are in great distress.

September 6th.—A man was going home to Shaddakh from Van with a number of Kurds; the caravan was attacked eight hours from Van and robbed, but on its appearing that some of the caravan were Kurds their goods were restored, but the Armenian was left bound, and not released for twenty-four hours. He had to keep his bed for a week.

September 7th.—In Shachbari, a suburb of Van, seven Kurds waylaid several

Armenians, stripped them to their shirts and drawers, bound them for some hours, beat and threatened them, and carried off their beasts of burden with corn, &c., leaving them destitute.

September 8th.—The Kurds carried off sixty sheep from Gop, three hours from Van, to the east.

September 8th.—Kurds from the Persian frontier carried off a number of sheep and oxen from the village of Pus, four hours from Bashkala. Boshushanli Abdul Agha took away by force a man's wife, and wounded his brother.

September 12th.—Kurds carried off a number of sheep and cattle from village of Vosgipakh.

September 14th.—Ismail Agha burned 3,000 bundles of hay and 30 loads of straw in Boghazkesen.

Kurds of two tribes plundered two neighbouring mills.

September 16th.—The people of Temur Agha carried away 405 sheep and 30 head of cattle from village of Degirmen-Dere.

September 16th.—A man was murdered in a village two hours from Van.

September 18th.—Temur Agha burned a quantity of hay and straw at Boghazkesen.

September 21st.—Temur Agha's people plundered the house of the Priest of Salakhan in Khoshab.

September 24th.—People of Derhaz Agha carried off from Verin Buzingerd, four hours south-east from Van, fourteen cows, ten oxen, nine horses, and eight asses.

October 11th.—I met on the road a man who had just been stripped to his shirt and drawers close to Van.

Besides these specific instances I have received other complaints of a more general character; for instance:—

The villagers of Kangwar, near Hokwotz Wank, complain that being the only Armenian village in the neighbourhood, they are continually subject to the visits of officials, who demand lodging and entertainment without payment, and that they are frequently robbed by the neighbouring Kurds.

Villagers of Hakkiari complain of systematic robbery and oppression by local Kurdish Aghas.

The villagers of Sel, in Khoshab, complain that three years ago Kurds took possession of their land, and still hold it. Seven families have been obliged to depart, and others will soon have to follow.

The people of Shamantz, in Nurduz, say that Mahmoud Agha, the local Chief, forces them to cultivate his fields and pasture his flocks, and takes corn, sheep, &c., from them. Forty-five families have gone away, but Mahmoud makes the remainder pay taxes for these. He wishes to force all the Christians to leave. He has already taken possession of the land of several proprietors.

From the village of Kerel, in Khoshab, have been carried off, since the war, 430 head of cattle, 230 sheep, &c.

Seven months ago a man named Bedros, of Mokh, was captured by Kurds and forced to turn Mussulman with his family, but he has lately managed to escape and has come to Van.

From Boulanyk also come general complaints of Kurdish depredations.

I have also heard that in the Mush and Bitlis districts matters are very bad, but I have received no details since my arrival in Van.

General complaints also reach me of the behaviour of the soldiers when sent to collect taxes, &c.; how they live at free quarters, insisting on being provided with the best of everything, abusing and beating the villagers if not satisfied, and even extorting money by force. But it must not be forgotten in excuse that they receive no pay from Government, and their clothing is in absolute rags.

I saw the Vali Pasha yesterday. He told me that robberies had ceased for the last three weeks, and that a Commission had been appointed to examine into all the complaints brought to the Government, to punish the wrong-doers, and to obtain the restitution of stolen property. I hope this Commission will prove something more than a sham, and that it will be able to do its work properly. The Pasha also entered into an explanation of the affair of Moussa Agha, saying that the Government had not made the Agha a Mudir, but had only recognized his position as head of the tribes in the district between Van, Bayazid, and the Persian frontier.

I believe, however, that there is something below the surface. As far as I can

understand, the Government is very anxious to collect arrears of taxes from the Kurds, and are at present making much of the Kurdish Chiefs with a view to cajole them into the payment of these arrears. What the final outcome may be I do not at present see, but I very much fear that the Christians will obtain but little protection from the tender mercies of the Kurds unless continual pressure is applied in their behalf.

I do not think the list I have given will produce the impression on others that what I have seen and heard has produced on my mind. A list of specific cases reported on paper will hardly induce the feeling which I have, the growth of many verbal reports and conversations that throughout this part of the country the Christian peasantry is always at every moment in danger of being plundered or ill-used, so that life is a burden, and has very little chance of obtaining protection or redress.

Of the doings of Moussa Agha and the insurgent Kurds in Hakkiari I have received no details, but only general reports of burning of villages, wholesale plunderings, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 111.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, October 25, 1879.

Sir,

I REGRET to say that I have had a disagreeable duty to perform to-day.

Yesterday I received a petition from prison from the headman of a village a few hours from here. He had had a difference, into the merits of which I have not had time to enter, with some soldiers passing through, at the end of last week. Three days ago he was in Van, when he was arrested by the military and brought before the Vali Pasha, the Ferik Pasha being present. After putting some questions relative to the dispute with the soldiers, the Ferik Pasha said, "I will send a battalion of troops and destroy your whole village, and then you can go and complain to the English and Russian Consuls, or whoever you like, and see what they can do to help you."

This morning I sent my dragoman to make inquiries about the matter, and he brought back word that several persons had been present when the Ferik Pasha so expressed himself, and that the circumstance was generally known and being commented on. I therefore went to the Vali Pasha, and found Samih Pasha with him. I said that I much regretted the cause that had brought me; and then detailing the circumstances, I said that the words used by the Ferik Pasha were an insult, not to me, but to the Government that I have the honour to represent, and that I could not therefore permit them to pass without notice.

The Vali Pasha professed not to remember anything about the affair, but both he and Samih Pasha expressed deep regret that such words should have been used, if they had been used.

To-day being mail-day they were very busy, but to-morrow they would inquire into the affair, and give me full satisfaction.

I replied that, as the matter concerned not myself, but the honour of my Government, I demanded that the Ferik Pasha, having used the words complained of publicly, he should publicly apologize to me as representing Her Majesty's Government, and that I should be content with nothing less. I trust my course of action will be approved of.

I have been obliged to limit myself to this short summary, as the mail is on the point of departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 112.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 61. Political.)

Erzeroum, November 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of my despatch of the 5th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador, inclosing despatch from Captain Everett (referred to in my despatch No. 60, Political, of the 1st November).

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Erzeroum, November 5, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to beg your Excellency's special attention to the inclosed despatch from Captain Everett (referred to in my despatch of the 1st instant).

In case your Excellency has not yet seen fit to take action in the sense suggested in my despatch referred to, I would beg to reiterate my request that the Sublime Porte be urged to telegraph to the Vali of Erzeroum that he and the Mutessarif of Bayazid will be held jointly and severally responsible, if after the warnings that have been given them those inhabitants of the districts of Toprak-Kaleh, Kara-Kilissa, and Pasin, who lack money and grain, be left unprovided, with sufficient quantities of the latter both to furnish food for the forthcoming winter and seed for the approaching spring.

I have also to request that the conduct of Osman Effendi and of the Cadi of Alashgerd be brought to the notice of the Turkish Government, with a request for their immediate suspension from office and dismissal if the charges brought against them be proved to be well-founded.

I learn that within the last few days the Minister of the Interior has sent a very urgent message to the authorities here to dispatch at once to the Constantinople Treasury the sum of 40,000*l*. I am informed that the unusual step was taken of demanding it in the Sultan's name—a demand accompanied by compliments on the part of His Majesty.

Should this demand be complied with, as I sincerely trust it will not, we may at once dismiss all hope of funds being available for the proposed reorganization of the gendarmerie, and it will probably prevent the relief of the distressed inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak, as to raise the above sum I imagine that it will be necessary to sell the whole of the grain now lying in the Government stores (the produce of this year's tithes) that is not absolutely required for supply to the troops.

The Government will then be left without surplus grain, and without money or the means of raising any.

Captain Everett and myself had a long interview yesterday with Ali Effendi, the leading member of the Local Government here, and did our very best to impress upon him the necessity of dealing liberally and promptly with the present distress.

It appears that five days ago positive orders were sent to the Mutessarif of Bayazid not to attempt to collect arrears of taxes, but to charge for the current year only. I trust this order may be the means of stopping the scandalous proceedings now going on. The Vali is still awaiting authorization from the Porte to distribute grain gratuitously when it is needed to prevent starvation.

Any orders now sent to the Vali should be accompanied by sanction to take whatever measures he may deem necessary to relieve the threatened distress. Of course this will interfere with the desired remittance to Constantinople of the 40,000*l*., but perhaps your Excellency may be able to induce the Ministers to forego the gold (which is in any case a very doubtful quantity), in order to save the lives of His Majesty's subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—Since writing the above the local authorities, in consequence of the urgent representations of Captain Everett and myself, have ordered that 400 somars

(about 600 English quarters), being a fifth part of the Government tithes collected in the Pasin district [*sic*]. As money will have to be disbursed for the relief of the Bayazid districts nothing can be done until orders be received from Constantinople.

H. T.

No. 113.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* , 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the list of proposals put forward by the Armenians of the Sandjak of Bayazid, referred to by Captain Everett in his despatch of the 11th October.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Proposals put forward by the Armenians of the Sandjak of Bayazid for their Amelioration.

TO the English Inspecting Officer.

1. The appointment of an English Vice-Consul for the province.
2. To deliver us from the oppression of civil and military officials.
3 To remove the Kurds or subject them to rule.
4. To release us from paying the arrears of taxes from 1293-95 inclusive (1877-79).
5. To repay the sum due for supplies given to the Imperial army during the war, or to deduct it from the taxes.
6. Not to require from us the seed lent last spring by the Government.
7. To restore to the Armenians their property taken from them by the Kurds.
8. To guarantee in future the property of the Christians.
9. To free us from gratuitous work for civil and military officials.
10. To dismiss the officials who killed and pillaged the Christians.
11. If request No. 4 cannot be granted, then to release us from any pressure.
12. To authorize Christians to have a voice in the Courts of Justice similarly to the Moslems.
13. Not to demand from the residents the taxes due from those who have emigrated.
14. To remove the emigrant Kurds and the Hatoonagloos from the Armenian villages.
15. That the Monastery of Soorp Agop [St. James'] should receive universal assistance.
16. To save us from the gratuitous services which at present we are forced to give to the emigrant Moslems.
17. That English Inspectors should frequently inquire into the state of the province.
18. To expedite the supply of wheat for sowing, for, should this be omitted, the position will become desperate.

If the importance of the aforesaid propositions are realized and can be complied with, an improvement will not be far distant. Convey our thanks to the guaranteeing Governments.

No. 114.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* 5, 1879.

THE Imperial Commissioners left Erzeroum on Sunday, the 1st instant, for Van. Their intention on leaving was to proceed to Mush, to remain there three

days, receiving petitions, &c., and then to continue their journey to Van, which place they expected to reach about the 25th instant. They purpose remaining at Van for the winter, and holding there an investigation into the state of affairs in the Mush and other sandjaks of the Van Vilayet.

I understand that the Commissioners personally were disinclined to go to Van, being unwilling to leave Erzeroum before there were any visible results for their five months' stay. They went in obedience to positive and reiterated order from the Porte.

I understand that very shortly before they left they received instructions to the effect that in the Van Vilayet they were to confine themselves to the study of the wants of the country, after doing which they were to send in a report to the Sublime Porte as to what reforms, if any, they considered necessary.

The Commissioners left behind them in Erzeroum two members of their staff, Hussein and Ahmed Effendis, to represent them in the Tribunals in various prosecutions and trials which are about to take place in consequence of the investigations of the Commissioners—notably the cases of the Keghi Aghas—both territorial and criminal, the prosecution of the Ispir Kaïmakam, and of various noted criminals of the Bayburt Sandjak.

The representatives of the Commissioners called on me yesterday, and assured me that the cases against the accused were so clear that it was impossible that justice should miscarry. My own idea is that in this country any injustice is possible provided the guilty party be amply provided with funds. I hope, however, that these cases may be brought to a satisfactory termination. Hussein Effendi is an upright and able man, and I do not think it will be by his fault if there should be a miscarriage of justice.

As (with Her Majesty's Ambassador's approval) I am starting very shortly for Diarbekir, I have instructed Captain Everett to keep me informed of the proceedings of the local Courts to which the above cases have been transferred, and to send to your Lordship direct (and to the Ambassador) copies of all despatches he may write to me on this or on any other subject.

If the criminals in these cases be convicted, that portion of the credit of it which may be due to the Commissioners have to show as the result of five months' labour.

My despatches for several months past will have thoroughly prepared your Lordship for this utter collapse of the so-called reforms for this vilayet. It was with a sigh of relief that I saw these Commissioners leave Erzeroum and felt freed from connection with what has turned out to be little better than a delusion and a sham.

In accordance with Her Majesty's Ambassador's instructions (received by telegram), I have written to Captain Clayton desiring him to accompany the Commission on the same footing as I have done. The Commissioners, on their part, have promised me to receive Captain Clayton as my Deputy, and to treat him in every respect as they have done me.

I would have telegraphed to Captain Clayton to join the Commissioners at Mush, but as their Excellencies assured me they only intended to stay there three days and then proceed direct to Van, I did not deem it desirable to telegraph, especially as, owing to the inefficiency of the telegraphic service, it is probable that my telegram would not have reached until too late to be of use, and, moreover, would probably have arrived in an unintelligible state. The so-called weekly post to Van takes from twelve to thirteen days in transit.

Up to the last I have continued personally on good terms with the Commissioners, although I have not concealed from them my idea of the utter failure of their mission. A few days before their departure they received from the Sublime Porte a Turkish translation, in full, of my despatch No. 22 of the 25th July, in which I wrote very freely of what the Commission had not been doing. They appeared somewhat annoyed at some of my remarks, which certainly were not written under the idea that their Excellencies would be provided with a translation for their perusals three months after date.

I hardly need to repeat the opinion I have more than once previously expressed, that the failure of the Commission to make any sensible impression on the maladministration of this country is principally due to two causes—first and foremost, the want of support from the Central Government at Constantinople, which it seems but too evident only wished to throw dust in the eyes of Europe, and secondly, to the want of support and the latent opposition of the local authorities and of the

local Courts. The Commissioners commenced their labours with zeal, and I at one time hoped good might result, and although up to the last I have had no cause to suspect their integrity and their good intentions, yet they have both showed themselves decidedly deficient in energy, and, seeing how matters lay at the capital, they soon became disgusted and half-hearted in the work of reform, so that the absence of local support, joined to a certain amount of actual opposition, has rendered their early labours abortive, and I think I may with confidence say that the state of the country is no better than when they arrived.

If the Keghi and other prosecutions succeed a certain amount of good will have been done, but certainly bearing a very small ratio to what ought to have been done, and would have been done had the authorities at Constantinople really wished for substantial reform.

I cannot anticipate that much good will result from their visit to Van. The absence of any good results in this vilayet will probably dissuade people from bringing complaints before the Commissioners elsewhere, as the would-be petitioners will rightly surmise that they will probably do themselves no good, and may do themselves injury, by bringing forward their complaints.

Her Majesty's Ambassador wrote to me some months ago that General Baker was likely to be sent to this country in a high position, and, subsequently, that General Baker had recommended Colonel Coope for the organization of the Erzeroum gendarmerie. More than a month ago the Porte telegraphed to the Commission that Colonel Coope and Tahir Bey had been appointed, and were leaving on that day for Erzeroum, but from that day to this nothing more has been heard of them, and, as far as I know, they have not yet left Constantinople.

I am unaware of the reasons for this delay, and, in fact, have no official knowledge of their appointment, as I have received no despatches from his Excellency the Ambassador on the subject of the reforms in this vilayet for nearly three months, and am quite ignorant as to his Excellency's views on the subject of the utter failure of the Imperial Commission of Reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1415.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 974, Secret, of the 10th instant.

In reply I have to state to your Excellency that your language to the Sultan, as reported in that despatch, relative to the recent orders given to Her Majesty's fleet to proceed from Malta to Turkish waters, and to the promised reforms in the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1416.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that your having communicated to Mahmoud Nedim the memorandum upon the reforms to be introduced in the Asiatic provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and other matters, of which a copy is inclosed with your despatch No. 929 of the 29th ultimo, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1417.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve your having brought to the notice of the Porte the suggestion contained in Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral's despatch of the 1st instant, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 966 of the 9th instant, that it would be of advantage that postal and telegraphic communication should be established between Angora and Sivrihissar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBUEY.

No. 118.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1879, midnight.*

CAPTAIN CLAYTON'S despatch No. 10 of October 25.

Have you heard by telegraph that Ferik Pasha has apologized.

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1879, midnight.*

YOUR despatch No. 25.

I think you had better not leave your post under present circumstances, and that your visit to Palestine and Cyprus should be deferred.

General Biddulph will be instructed to furnish you with any information for which you may apply to him about British administration in Cyprus.

No. 120.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1437.) *Foreign Office, November 30, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE received as an inclosure in Major Trotter's despatch No. 63 of the 7th instant a copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, relative to expressions said to have been used by the Ferik Pasha commanding the troops in that district, of which Captain Clayton thought it right to demand a public retractation.

The expressions in question could not be allowed to pass unnoticed, and I have this day telegraphed to your Excellency to inquire whether the Ferik Pasha has offered an apology.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 121.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 763.) *Constantinople, November 30, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 298, I hope to get copy of Baker's instructions. He and Said Pasha seem satisfied with the powers they have, which, however, are not, I think, very clearly defined. It will soon be seen whether they are sufficient. Baker will be in constant private communication with me.

I think it would do much harm to mention what I have told you about French Ambassador at Paris. It might be told secretly to Lord Lyons.

No. 122.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 1, 12·20 P.M.)

(No. 764.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, December* 1, 1879, 11·46 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 299, I have just received a despatch from Captain Clayton, describing what has occurred, and I am now demanding an apology.

No. 123.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 1014.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Anamissaki on the subject of Administrative and Judicial Reforms in his Consular district.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Anamissaki's statements confirm what I learnt elsewhere with regard to these new regulations for the Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Anamissaki to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Tchesmé, ce* 8 *Novembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence que bien que son Altesse le Vali Sadig Pacha, dans sa bienveillante sollicitude, s'est empressé conformément aux bonnes intentions du Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte à l'application des nouvelles réformes de réorganiser les branches administratives et judiciaires de la Préfecture des Iles de l'Archipel, tous les membres des Tribunaux de Commerce de Première Instance, et de la Cour d'Appel, ont donné dernièrement leur démission, pour la raison que leurs honoraires nominaux de 300 piastres par mois sont très-chétifs, et même sans leur être payés par la Caisse, sauf les Présidents et les Procureurs du Roi des Tribunaux, qui n'ont pas donné leur démission, parce que, bien qu'ils soient aussi privés de leurs honoraires, pourtant, comme ils sont un peu importants, ils restent à leurs postes.

Par conséquent nous avons à Scio des Présidents, Procureurs du Roi, et Inspecteur-Général des Tribunaux qui n'existent guère.

D'après ce que l'on m'a informé, la cause de la démission des Chrétiens membres des Tribunaux est aussi la subrogation de la langue Grecque par la langue Turque.

Quant à Tchesmé, il n'y existe que seulement le Tribunal de Première Instance qui juge les affaires civiles et criminelles sous la présidence du Cadi et quatre adjoints, dont deux Musulmans et deux Chrétiens; mais depuis peu de temps, par suite d'un ordre du Vali de Smyrne au Caïmacam de Tchesmé que, conformément à l'Article 18 de la Loi sur les élections des membres du Tribunal en question, qu'ils doivent connaître la langue Turque, qui est la langue officielle de l'Etat, les Ottomans en profitant de l'interprétation du dit Article selon leur idée, ils ont choisi deux Musulmans seulement comme adjoints du dit Tribunal, et ils ont écarté les deux Chrétiens comme ignorant d'écrire la langue Turque.

Dernièrement le Caïmacam de Tchesmé ayant été ordonné par le Vali de Smyrne qu'il fallait aussi adjoindre au dit Tribunal deux Chrétiens, il a communiqué cet ordre à l'Evêque Grec, qui, à son tour, a noté trois personnes comme électeurs, dont les noms le Caïmacam a soumis au Vali de Smyrne. Mais comme l'élection des dites personnes n'a été faite par la voix générale des habitants et comme elles appartiennent à la classe des négociants et sont presque toujours les mêmes personnes qui se commettent alternativement comme membres des Tribunaux, c'est en quoi que la population Chrétienne fait des plaintes pour cette

infraction en demandant pour que, conformément au règlement relatif, les membres des Tribunaux soient élus par la voix générale.

Par conséquent, à défaut des personnes habiles au jurisprudence pour être commises comme adjoints aux Tribunaux, il serait bon, je crois, si le Gouvernement Impérial aurait ordonné présentement de commettre de tels, qui n'ont pas d'intérêt particulier dans le pays, et de l'élection générale des habitants; bien que cette mesure ne peut pas, je crois, avoir tout-à-fait les réussites désirées—pourtant elle peut contribuer du plus ou moins à l'amélioration de cette branche judiciaire.

Comme il est question des Tribunaux, je crois convenable de référer à votre Excellence que l'application du nouveau Tarif des frais judiciaires sont très-onéreux, parceque si on veut accuser par devant le Tribunal un débiteur pour une somme de 100 piastres, par exemple, on doit payer d'avance pour frais judiciaires 35 piastres environ; ensuite, lorsque le débiteur serait condamné le Tribunal prendra la mesure forcée de l'emprisonner si le créancier payerait par anticipation 150 piastres pour un mois d'imprisonnement, à titre de nourriture du condamné, c'est-à-dire à raison de 5 piastres par jour, et à l'expiration du dit terme, si le créancier veut continuer l'emprisonnement il doit payer encore et par anticipation 150 piastres pour un autre mois, et ainsi de suite, de façon que l'on applique strictement tout ce qui concerne la perception des droits judiciaires, mais non pas ceux de l'exécution des sentences et de la formalité de la mesure la plus essentielle de la saisie et de la vente du bien du débiteur, par la raison que s'il se consiste d'une maison et d'un champ, ou vigne, d'une valeur analogue pour vivre, on ne peut pas les vendre pour l'acquittement de sa dette.

En outre, comme les adjoints des Tribunaux ne sont pas pour la plupart des personnes habiles en jurisprudence, et sans expérience au moins de la procédure civile et criminelle, ils jugent selon leurs sympathies et antipathies, sans prendre en considération pendant le jugement les propositions écrites et verbales des combattants pour vérifier le juste; mais ils leur déférent des serments et les obligent d'accepter des arrangements préjudiciables pour les plaidants, dont on perçoit des droits d'appel en justice; mais en cas de non comparution du défendeur, on ne juge pas la cause en contumace, de façon que l'on force le plaidant d'attendre indéfiniment, et ainsi on fait s'éterniser les causes de toute nature, sans que les sentences des Tribunaux soient exécutées légalement et rigoureusement, ce dont que tout créancier, ayant en vue toutes les difficultés précitées contre son débiteur, pour ne pas se surcharger des frais sans pouvoir recouvrer sa créance [*sic*].

En conséquence, comme ils endommagent essentiellement non-seulement les intérêts des sujets Ottomans mais aussi ceux des étrangers, il serait à souhaiter si votre Excellence voudrait bien intervenir auprès du Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte, et dans ses intérêts lui inspirer l'urgence de bien organiser et mettre en ordre cette branche judiciaire importante.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) D. ANAMISSAKI.

No. 124.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 1015.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation by Mr. Dragoman Alischan, giving the substance of an Armenian pamphlet, the object of which is to show the benefits dervied by the Armenians from the Treaty of Berlin. The author is a gentleman who attended the Congress of Berlin, and who has, I believe, considerable influence at the Armenian Patriarchate and with the nation. The statements contained in it are not undeserving of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Pamphlet published by M. Nurias Tchéras.

(Traduction.)

L'AUTEUR ayant accompagné l'ex-Patriarche Arménien, Mgr. Khrimian, et Mgr. Narby, comme Interprète et Secrétaire dans leur mission auprès du Congrès de Berlin, est à même de faire voir à la nation Arménienne ce qu'elle a gagné du Congrès de Berlin en faisant même voir le fruit avant la semence.

L'auteur soutient que la nation Arménienne ne doit jamais se laisser aller au désespoir, surtout en considération des avantages qu'elle a obtenus du Congrès de Berlin.

Avant de prouver ce qu'il vient d'avancer, l'auteur désire exposer, en se référant à des sources officielles, ce que le Tribunal Européen a décidé par rapport à la question Arménienne.

Quand la Russie, dit-il, a déclaré la guerre au Sultan, elle a proclamé son intention de délivrer les populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie. Lorsque le Croissant s'est incliné devant l'Aigle et qu'un Traité a été conclu, la population Arménienne y était oubliée. Alors sa Sainteté le Patriarche, allant au devant du vainqueur, a sollicité pour les Arméniens une autonomie administrative. Le Prince Gortchacow, dans la première réunion du Congrès, a proclamé que la Russie avait le seul but de créer et d'assurer sur une base solide une existence autonome pour les nations Chrétiennes. Tandis que, loin d'assurer pour les Arméniens une telle existence, elle a légué le 19 Février, dans le Traité de San Stéfano, l'Article XVI.

Lord Salisbury, après avoir, dans sa fameuse Circulaire du 20 Mars, refusé de reconnaître le Traité de San Stéfano, a introduit au Congrès de Berlin, dans la séance du 22 Juin, la question Arménienne, en se référant à l'Article IV du Congrès de San Stéfano.

L'auteur énumère ensuite avec détails tout ce qui a été dit et écrit au Congrès de Berlin, fait ressortir l'initiative prise par Lord Salisbury pour protéger les intérêts des Arméniens, initiative dont le résultat a été l'insertion de l'Article LXI dans le Traité de Berlin.

L'auteur entreprend ensuite de démontrer la différence qu'il y a pour les Arméniens entre le Traité de San Stéfano et le Traité de Berlin. Il dit que les Arméniens ont beaucoup plus gagné à Berlin qu'à San Stéfano, et il ajoute qu'il était impossible de gagner plus en promesse verbale ou par écrit.

Par le Traité de San Stéfano la Russie seule imposait des obligations à la Turquie par rapport aux Arméniens; par l'Article de Berlin, l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande Bretagne, et la Russie se sont unies pour le même objet.

Par l'Article de San Stéfano la Sublime Porte s'engageait à protéger les Arméniens là où étaient campées les armées Russes; cette promesse n'était faite que pour une partie de l'Arménie—pour Erzéroum seulement; et il était facile pour la Turquie de la mettre en exécution. L'organisation d'une police suffisait pour empêcher les querelles et les troubles.

Par l'Article de Berlin la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à protéger les Arméniens dans tout le territoire Arménien occupé par les Arméniens; elle a été obligée de promettre non-seulement une organisation de police mais bien toutes sortes de réformes; elle a dû prendre une responsabilité non-seulement pour l'état present d'Erzéroum, mais bien pour le présent et l'avenir de l'Arménie.

La différence est immense, et la nation Arménienne en est redevable à Lord Salisbury. Aujourd'hui, du moment que l'armée Russe a quitté Erzéroum et que le Gouvernement Ottoman a pris des mesures pour la sécurité de la population Arménienne de cette ville, la question Arménienne pourrait être déjà considérée comme close d'après le Traité de San Stéfano, tandis que d'après celui de Berlin elle n'est même pas ouverte.

Par le Traité de San Stéfano la Sublime Porte promettait de protéger l'Arménien contre le Kurde et le Circassien. Il y a des hommes politiques qui pensent que la Russie ayant des vues de conquête sur l'Arménie Turque, se serait abstenue de veiller à l'exécution de cette promesse, afin que les Chrétiens ne jouissant pas d'une existence satisfaisante, la question d'Orient puisse renaître. Par le Traité de Berlin la Sublime Porte a promis à l'Europe de protéger l'Arménien contre le Kurde et le Circassien. Et il ne faut pas oublier, que cela aussi est dû à l'Angleterre, dont les intérêts exigent que les Chrétiens d'Arménie soient contents, afin que la Vallée de

l'Euphrate ne soit pas engloutie par un grand peuple. Lord Salisbury nous disait à Londres avant le Congrès: "Croyez bien que notre gracieuse Reine désire autant que vous que les Arméniens obtiennent un état satisfaisant en jouissant du bien-être, de la tranquillité, et de la liberté." Cette proclamation était sincère, car les intérêts d'Albion touchent de très-près aux nôtres sur ce point. Dans l'Article de San Stéfano notre cause n'était présentée qu'indirectement; et ce ne sont pas nos droits qui l'avaient inspirée, mais bien la présence éventuelle de l'armée Russe sur le territoire Arménien.

Lord Salisbury a directement présenté la question Arménienne comme un droit de cette nation à l'amélioration de son état. En effet, notre question ne devait pas naître du fait du départ de l'armée Russe; elle était déjà née des atrocités auxquelles nous sommes en butte. Il paraîtrait donc que si la Russie avait gardé pour elle cette partie de l'Arménie où ces troupes étaient campées, et qu'elle a dû laisser au Sultan, le Traité de San Stéfano aurait résolu la question d'Orient sans mentionner le nom Arménien.

Le Congrès de Berlin a décidé que la Sublime Porte est obligée de communiquer à l'Europe les moyens qu'elle aura à employer pour que la situation des Arméniens soit améliorée, réformée, et assurée. Donc, pour nous, la Porte est désormais responsable; elle est obligée de rendre compte au monde Européen de l'état de l'Arménie Ottomane. Et si l'Europe juge ces moyens insuffisants elle aura le droit de demander au Gouvernement Ottoman de leur donner une plus grande étendue. Voilà un avantage qui n'a pas de limite.

Un autre avantage immense, c'est que les Puissances surveilleront à l'exécution des moyens de réforme ci-dessus énoncés.

L'Europe s'est donc départie de l'esprit de non-intervention qui avait présidé en 1856. Et Schouvaloff s'est écrié dans la dix-huitième séance du Congrès, "Peut-on prétendre qu'il n'y a pas d'intervention en Turquie, quand il y a des Comités Européens innombrables dans la Roumélie, dans les provinces Grecques en Arménie, &c."

Il résulte de ce que nous venons d'exposer que le Congrès de Berlin n'a pas seulement changé le numéro de l'Article de San Stéfano qui nous concerne en mettant le numéro LXI au lieu de XVI, mais il a mis des bases sur lesquelles nous pouvons désormais fonder notre édifice national.

La Convention que l'Angleterre et la Turquie ont signée a été un nouveau bienfait pour nous.

Lord Salisbury a adressé à Sir H. Layard une longue dépêche en date du 18 Mai, qui a inspiré l'alliance défensive du 23 Mai. Sir H. Layard et Safvet Pacha ont signé cette Convention, dont l'existence a transpiré le 26 Juin.

Donc, outre la responsabilité collective que les six Puissances avaient assumée, nous avons aussi acquis la responsabilité que la Grande Bretagne a entreprise.

Et si on pouvait penser avec un écrivain Français que la responsabilité collective est une chimière; nous voilà rassurés à cet égard par la Convention du 23 Mai.

Pourquoi donc, après tant de bienfaits, nombre d'Arméniens sont-ils ensevelis dans la tristesse. Quand ils se mettent en deuil devant le succès, quelle couleur prendront-ils dans l'adversité.

Il est vrai que notre éminent Patriarche a demandé une autonomie administrative que d'abord la Russie, et puis l'Europe nous ont refusé. Mais quelle est la nation qui fut entièrement satisfaite des décisions du Congrès? L'Arménien ne pouvait pas aspirer à une haute position.

L'Arménie avait-elle droit à une autonomie administrative, chose que l'Europe a refusée à Crète? Ou bien, étions-nous capables d'une existence autonome? Nous qui connaissons notre état, nous ne voulons pas nous occuper de ces questions.

Mais je m'empresse d'ajouter que l'Europe en nous refusant l'autonomie administrative, nous a gratifiés d'un Article qui peut graduellement nous mener au but que nou brûlions d'atteindre.

La Sublime Porte promet de mettre en pratique les réformes qu'exige l'état des pays habités par les Arméniens; ces réformes finiront un jour par se traduire en autonomie administrative.

Les Représentants de la nation ont fait tout leur possible auprès du Congrès de Berlin. Il ne faut pas perdre courage, et il faut tâcher désormais de tirer tout l'avantage possible des bienfaits qu'on nous a octroyés.

L'Europe nous a donné des armes: il faut nous en servir avant qu'elles ne soient émoussées.

La Sublime Porte a promis des réformes immédiates en Arménie. Il faut agir s'il y a du retard.

La Sublime Porte a promis de réaliser les réformes en Arménie. Il faut agir si les réformes ne sont pas réalisées.

La Sublime Porte a promis de protéger l'Arménie contre le Kurde et le Circassien. Il faut agir si ces derniers restent impunis.

La Sublime Porte a promis de faire les réformes nécessaires et les Puissances ont promis de veiller à leur exécution. Il faut agir si les Puissances n'exercent pas cette surveillance, ou bien si elles l'exercent d'une manière peu satisfaisante.

Le Congrès a gardé le silence quand Schouvaloff a fait mention d'un Comité Européen pour l'Arménie; si l'Angleterre ne réforme pas les provinces Arméniennes, ce Comité nous sera nécessaire. Il faut agir si l'Europe nous le refuse.

Par la Convention du 23 Mai les Chrétiens de la Turquie d'Asie ont reçu de la Reine et du Sultan la promesse qu'ils jouiront d'une bonne administration et d'une protection efficace. Il faut agir s'ils en sont privés.

L'Europe entière, et l'Angleterre individuellement, ont affaire dans la Vallée d'Euphrate; l'Angleterre tâchera de défendre ses intérêts contre des intérêts contraires; il faut travailler adroitement à ce que l'Arménien en attisant cette rivalité, en retire des avantages fondamentaux.

Il ne faut pas que notre nation se désespère; il faut travailler en Arménie d'un côté et en Europe de l'autre. A ceux qui nous demanderont, où sont les résultats de l'Article LXI, nous leur répondrons qu'il y a soixante Articles devant le nôtre; ces soixante Articles ont-ils été complétement exécutés? Ce sont les forts qui, avant tous, prendront leur part, et puis viendront les faibles, en se donnant beaucoup de peines; telle est la loi dans ce monde.

Par le Congrès de Berlin nous avons gagné une mine d'or; c'est à nous à travailler et à extraire l'or.

No. 125.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1016. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 22, 1879.*

MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA sent to tell me this morning that he had a communication to make to me on the part of the Sultan, and as I was at the Porte I called upon his Highness.

He informed me that His Majesty was convinced that there were intrigues on foot to bring about a misunderstanding between Turkey and England, and a quarrel between himself and me. That His Majesty had been told, with the latter object, that I was conspiring against him with Midhat Pasha and others, and that the British Government were seeking to dethrone him; and, further, that in order to injure His Majesty I had, without instructions from Her Majesty's Government, ordered the British fleet into Turkish waters, and that it was only through the urgent representations and remonstrances which Musurus Pasha had been instructed to make to your Lordship by the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha that these orders had been countermanded.

His Majesty, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha went on to say, was so persuaded that, after the cordial and intimate relations which had so long existed between him and me, and after the many proofs he had received of my friendship, I could not have thus acted towards him; that he had requested the Ministers who had made the statement to him with reference to the fleet to put it into writing, and to sign it. This they had done, and His Majesty now wished me to know it, that I might give him any explanations I thought fit.

I had no difficulty in convincing Mahmoud Nedim Pasha that this statement, coming, he said, from Saïd and Sawas Pashas with the object of getting credit to themselves with His Majesty for having stopped the arrival of the fleet, was completely at variance with fact, and entirely void of foundation. I proved to His Highness that I had only received the information of the approaching departure of the fleet for Vourla from Admiral Hornby, and that it was not until nearly a week after that any official communication reached me on the subject from your Lordship. That your Lordship had then, and before you had even seen Musurus Pasha, informed me that on my representations the orders to the fleet had been, for the present, countermanded.

His Highness asked me to put this statement in writing in the form of a *Pro-memorid* instruction to Sir A. Sandison, which he would, with my authority, show to the Sultan, and thereby unmask the intriguers who were endeavouring to mislead His Majesty and to make mischief between him and me. To this I consented.

Although I had learnt from other sources that the reports referred to by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha had reached the Sultan, I was not altogether persuaded that he was not playing me off in an intrigue against Saïd Pasha, as it is well known that a struggle is going on between the two in the Palace. But on returning to Therapia I found Count Zichy waiting for me with a story to tell almost identical with my own.

His Excellency informed me that when the Porte had learnt that the Austrian fleet was leaving the Piræus for Salonica, Sawas Pasha had requested him to ask his Government to send it elsewhere, as the reasons for its presence at Salonica might be misinterpreted to the Sultan. He (Count Zichy) at once telegraphed on the subject to Vienna, and received a reply to the effect that the Emperor, in his desire to be agreeable to His Majesty, had at once dispatched orders to the Austrian Admiral to proceed to Smyrna instead of to Salonica, although the visit of the Austrian squadron to the latter port was absolutely devoid of any political significance. But His Imperial Majesty expressed his fears that as the Admiral was already at sea, the telegram might not reach him in time to alter his course. However, it did so, and the squadron accordingly went to Smyrna. Sawas Pasha subsequently telegraphed to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna to demand that the fleet, which, his Excellency stated, was already at Salonica, should be immediately withdrawn from that place, and should not enter Turkish waters. The Sultan had been informed that this telegram had been sent, and that, in consequence of it, the Austrian squadron had been immediately ordered to leave Salonica.

Baron Haymerle, Count Zichy went on to say, had been naturally much annoyed by what had occurred, and had asked for explanations. He (Count Zichy) had consequently called upon the Prime Minister to give them, and had insisted upon the telegram to Edhem Pasha being withdrawn, and upon an ample apology from Sawas Pasha for sending it. This had now been done. I trust that the Sultan may thus have further proof of the manner in which he is systematically misled and deceived.

During my interview with Mahmoud Nedim Pasha he spoke to me very unreservedly and confidentially about the Sultan. He highly praised His Majesty's good-natured disposition, his intelligence, and his earnest desire to promote the prosperity of the Empire and the welfare of his people. But, unfortunately, his Highness said, from the time of His Majesty's advent to the Throne he had been surrounded and influenced by bad, corrupt, and designing men, who had sought to make use of him for their own purposes. His Majesty's want of experience, and the manner in which, like all Ottoman Princes, he had been educated, had made him the victim of these people. The only hope, his Highness was convinced, of saving the Sultan and the Empire, was to free His Majesty from these influences, to effect a complete reform in the Palace, and to place about His Majesty liberal, honest, and capable men, who had the good of their country really at heart. If the Sultan were to lose his Throne in consequence of the general discontent and disaffection which now prevailed, there would be no change for the better. His successor would be a far inferior man in every respect to him, and would be under the same influences. Every friend of Turkey and every Turkish patriot should, consequently, endeavour to bring about the reform in the Palace which he had indicated, and he trusted that those who attempted it would receive my countenance and support.

I replied that my views entirely coincided with those that he had expressed, and that I had done, and was ready to do, anything that I properly could in my position to free the Sultan from the influences which threatened such serious consequences to himself and the Empire.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha observed that he considered Saïd Pasha as a most dangerous and untrustworthy man. He had, unfortunately, succeeded by his intrigues in gaining a greater influence over His Majesty than any one else. Osman Pasha, his Highness added, had no influence whatever over His Majesty, who only kept him as his Minister because he had been led to believe that his personal safety was secured so long as Osman Pasha remained in command of the army.

On my asking Mahmoud Nedim Pasha whether there was any truth in the report that had reached me as to the attempt to bring about an alliance or understanding between Turkey and Russia, he replied that although some of the Ministers had, no doubt, a strong leaning towards Russia, yet they would not venture to advise the Sultan to enter into intimate relations with her. His Majesty, he was convinced, was most thoroughly anti-Russian at heart, and it could only be very extraordinary circumstances which could induce him to be otherwise. His Highness mentioned, as an incident which had much

struck him, that Prince Labanoff had called upon him the day before his departure, and had advised him not to have any differences with Said Pasha, but to give him his hearty support.

Since writing the above I have received information from an independent source that convinces me that the Sultan did send the message to me delivered by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 126.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 1017. Secret.)
Therapia, November 22, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Sultan, in his usual considerate manner, asked me to dine with him in a quiet way yesterday. Although in deep mourning I did not decline the invitation, as I considered it important to have some conversation with His Majesty on one or two matters.

The only persons present at dinner were Baker Pasha and one or two members of His Majesty's household. After dinner I spent a couple of hours alone with His Majesty, only Sir A. Sandison being present. I need scarcely repeat our conversation, which turned upon subjects which we have often discussed, and upon which His Majesty spoke with his usual intelligence, expressing the most liberal and enlightened views. But His Majesty made one or two communications to me which it is my duty to report to your Lordship.

In the first place, His Majesty said that he had been very anxious to see me in order to remove the suspicion, which he had reason to believe I still entertained, that he was in communication and was meditating some understanding with Russia. He knew that intrigues were on foot to make me believe this with a view to produce a quarrel between England and Turkey, and to create differences between himself and me. To suspect him of anything of the kind was an insult to his feelings. He protested most solemnly that he had entered into no engagements, and come to no understanding whatever with Russia, and had no intention whatever of doing so. He was desirous of entertaining good relations with Russia, as with all other Powers, but he would not go beyond that. His policy was now, as it had been from the day he had mounted the throne, founded upon an alliance with England and the closest understanding with her.

I replied that I should have much satisfaction in conveying these assurances to Her Majesty's Government, and that I most earnestly hoped that his acts would be such as to afford proofs of his sincerity. I asked His Majesty whether Prince Labanoff had been charged with any mission to him, as his audiences of His Majesty immediately before and after his recent journey to Livadia had naturally given rise to various rumours and much suspicion as to their object. His Majesty denied, in the most emphatic terms, that the Russian Ambassador had made any proposals to him, and asserted that only the usual courteous messages had passed between him and the Emperor of Russia.

His Majesty informed me that he hoped Baker Pasha would be able to leave Constantinople on the following Wednesday upon his mission. He would be invested, His Majesty said, with the fullest powers, and would be in direct communication with His Majesty and the Porte. His Majesty expressed his conviction that I would be entirely satisfied with the instructions given to Baker Pasha, who would be authorized to make the fullest inquiries into all that concerned the condition of the Vilayets of Anatolia and their populations, and amongst other things to inspect and organize the gendarmerie.

His Majesty next said that he had not forgotten my recommendation, that a Christian Governor should be appointed to the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and he had decided upon naming to that post Rustem Pasha, who was an old servant of His Majesty's father, and who had always shown great loyalty and devotion to His Majesty and his predecessors, and who had given evidence of considerable administrative skill by the way in which he had governed Mount Lebanon. The Iradé appointing him was actually ready, and would be issued as soon as a successor could be found for him. His Majesty then asked me to recommend him someone. As I was rather puzzled how to answer, His Majesty observed, laughing, "I see that you have the same difficulty that I have in finding capable and trustworthy men for such offices." Several names were then passed in review, and His

Majesty ended by asking me to see Said Pasha, the Prime Minister, on the following morning, and to discuss the matter with him.

His Majesty further informed me that he had given the most peremptory orders to his Ministers to put the reforms that he had promised into execution without delay. He asked me whether I had seen the official programme of them. I replied that I had read it in the newspapers, but that it appeared to me somewhat vague. He observed that it was so, as it only announced the principles upon which the contemplated reforms were to be based, and the objects to which they were to be directed. It was for His Majesty's Ministers to fill up the details, and this he had ordered them to do. His Majesty added that he was desirous of consulting Her Majesty's Government on some points in connection with the reforms, and he intended to send me some questions on the subject in writing in the following week, which he hoped I would forward to your Lordship.

His Majesty told me that the Commission he had named to draw up and submit to him a scheme for the organization of his army, upon which he had placed Baker Pasha, had completed its task, and that he was highly satisfied with the zeal and ability shown by all its members. He had received their Report and highly approved of it, but it would have to be referred to the Council of Ministers for their opinion. If carried out it would give Turkey in twenty years 1,600,000 men ready to be called to arms.

His Majesty mentioned, in course of conversation, that the celebrated Kurdish Chief, Sheikh Obeyd Ullah, had, with his son, presented himself to Jami Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the Corps d'Armée in Kurdistan, and that he was coming to Constantinople in the charge of one of His Majesty's Aides-de-camp. I congratulated His Majesty upon the submission of a powerful Chief who had long defied His Majesty's authority, and who had committed innumerable acts of cruelty and oppression upon His Majesty's Christian subjects; but I expressed a hope that he would not be allowed to go back to his tribes, as many others in the same position had been allowed to do, to again ill-treat the Christians and to plunder the peaceful Mussulman populations. His Majesty replied that he intended to keep him in exile at Broussa, and that he was determined that none of the Kurdish Chiefs who had been made prisoners should be permitted to return to their country. I mentioned to His Majesty that I had been instructed by Her Majesty's Government to advise the Porte to conclude a Convention with Persia with a view to preventing in future the depredations of the Kurdish border tribes, by putting a stop to their habit of taking refuge in the territory of one Power when they had committed excesses in that of the other. His Majesty expressed his entire approval of the idea, and begged me to urge the matter upon the attention of his Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 127.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 1021. Confidential.)
Therapia, November 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Said Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo, giving me his views of the Zeitoun question, which he has just brought to so satisfactory a conclusion. From his well-known straightforward and honourable character, I have every reason to believe that they are just and impartial. They are corroborated, in the main, by the Reports of Consul Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside, who do not appear to have a higher opinion of the Armenians of that part of Turkey, and their priesthood, than his Excellency.

It has been a great satisfaction to me to have contributed to the settlement of this long-pending question, and to obtaining the approval of the Sultan of Said Pasha's proposals, including the amnesty to all the Armenians who had been imprisoned by the local authorities, or who were still outlaws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Said Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Marash, November 5, 1879.*

WHEN I last wrote to you I did not expect that my task would be a very easy one, but I did not think it would have proved so difficult as it has done.

Previous to my departure from Marash I was joined by Mr. Chermside, who from there sent a message to the outlaws suggesting that their personal submission to me on the road previous to my arrival at Zeitoun would be beneficial to their cause. This suggestion they did not comply with, although he stated that I promised to allow them to return to their village until such time as the answer to my application to the Porte for their free pardon arrived, which application I promised to make if they would submit to and ask pardon from me; and if the answer was unfavourable, they were to be made acquainted with it, but no advantage was to be taken of their submission, and they were to revert to their original position as outlaws. After waiting without any results for about ten days, Mr. Chermside's efforts began to be successful, and they began to come in by twos and threes, first unimportant men, afterwards the Chiefs, and finally Babic.

I regret to say that I did not receive that assistance from the priests or leading men of the village which I think I had a right to expect; certainly not at first, and afterwards only in a lukewarm sort of way. I was detained at Zeitoun nearly one month. I will now give you a description of the people.

From the inquiries which I have made, and the information that I have received, I am quite convinced that the Zeitoun people have committed a long series of robberies and murders. They frequently, in bands of from 50 to 200, made raids on different Mussulman villages in the caza, stripping the inhabitants of all their property, and driving off their flocks and herds.

The destitution of these people is even now dreadful, and how they are to live through the winter it is impossible to say, having lost their oxen and agricultural implements, they have been unable to till their land from which they derive their sole means of subsistence.

The Armenian priests and others give as a cause for the outrages committed by the Zeitounlis, the misrule and malpractics of Kaïmakams and other officials, also the poverty of the people.

I am prepared to admit that there is a certain amount of cause to complain of the conduct of some of the people who were in authority, not only in this but in many other cazas and vilayets as well, but nowhere else have the people taken the law into their own hands and set their Government at defiance. It seems to me that the naturally restless habits of these people make the appropriation of the fruits of their neighbours' labour preferable, because easier than honest industry of their own. At the same time I cannot help thinking that they have been and are being tampered with in an underhand manner by certain people, but of this I would like to give you a verbal account.

The plea of poverty cannot for an instant be admitted even as an excuse, as the Zeitounlis are better off in every way than people of the same and of many other cazas; of this it is easy to obtain proof. But Zeitoun itself is the most detestable place I ever saw in my life. The offences committed by these brigands are of two classes, one against the Government, the other against the individuals.

The Government can pardon those against itself, but properly speaking it cannot pardon those against individuals. However, by this time both classes of crime have got so entangled and mixed up together that it is totally impossible to define one from the other. And having received a written confession and promise of future good behaviour from the prisoners confined in Marash goal, and the individual submission of the outlaws, I have telegraphed to the Porte for a free pardon for all, at the same time explaining my reasons for considering this the best method of securing future tranquillity; and if the Porte accedes to my demands, the Zeitoun affair may be considered settled, with a view to permanently establishing tranquillity. I have sent for and seen the principal men of the villages of the caza, and got them to give me a written guarantee for each village, with their signatures attached, that in future each and all will hold himself and themselves responsible for their respective villages, and that in the event of any crime being committed, they will immediately find out and deliver up the culprit or culprits to the authorities. I have great confidence in this plan, and have extended it to the

Cazas of Elbistan and Andrin by writing to the Kaïmakams of those places. At the present time I am quite certain that as great or greater tranquillity prevails in this caza than in almost any other district in the vilayet, and the end for which I have worked and am working is that it may continue to do so.

I have modified the income and taxes of the Zeitoun Caza, and have written for authority to confirm my alterations.

While at Aleppo I formed a Commission for the organization of the gendarmerie in the Aleppo Sandjak, which they have completed, and are now going to organize it in the other sandjaks.

I thank you very much for the copies of your telegrams which I received from Mr. Henderson.

I am now in daily expectation to get the authorized answer to my request for the free pardon of the Zeitounlis.

No. 128.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1024.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of an official notice which has been published in the semi-official journal "La Turquie," having reference to the contemplated reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 128.

Extract from "La Turquie" of November 20, 1879.

LES journaux Turcs d'hier ont publié un nouvel Avis Officiel sur les réformes dont voici la traduction:—

"Le Gouvernement Impérial par un avis spécial a déjà porté à la connaissance du public l'Iradé Impérial sanctionnant la décision prise en Conseil Ministériel au sujet des réformes fondamentales dont l'exécution a été reconnue nécessaire.

"Cet Iradé Impérial, tout en ordonnant l'application des réformes capables de développer le progrès et la prospérité dont le pays est susceptible et d'assurer la parfaite sécurité des habitants de toutes les classes de l'Empire, a prescrit en général ce qui suit:—

"Les Ministères et Administrations Publiques seront mieux divisés et, selon les besoins du pays, seront organisés de manière à faire marcher les affaires sans retards et régulièrement;

"Le service de la Dette Publique, qui depuis quelques années est resté en souffrance à cause des calamités de la guerre, sera assuré par l'affectation des revenus nécessaires;

"Les opérations du Ministère des Finances seront établies sur des bases réelles;

"L'application du système de l'impôt foncier sur les terres en lui donnant pour base l'abolition de l'impôt de la dîme et du système du fermage contre lequel tant de plaintes sont formulées de tous côtés. Le nouveau système sera appliqué, à titre d'essai, dans certaines provinces, seulement à partir de l'année prochaine;

"Le service de la perception des impôts sera détaché des attributions de la gendarmerie. Une loi spéciale sera élaborée réglant ce service;

"Les forêts et les mines seront exploitées; les ports seront construits ou corés et les marais desséchés; des rivières et des canaux seront ouverts à la navigation; des chaussées et des ponts seront construits; l'industrie indigène et enfin la richesse publique seront développées par tous les moyens et par la suppression des règlements et systèmes qui ont pu entraver le développement du pays;

"La gendarmerie des vilayets sera organisée d'après le nouveau système. A cet effet, le Ministère de la Guerre sera invité à étudier immédiatement les divers projets qui se trouvent actuellement à ce Ministère et à demander la sanction Impériale pour leur mise à exécution;

"Les affaires concernant la gendarmerie de la capitale et de sa banlieue ressortiront, comme par le passé, du Ministère de la Police, mais jusqu'à l'organisation de la gendarmerie dans les provinces le Ministère de la Guerre sera chargé de la direction des affaires de la gendarmerie des provinces.

"Quelques étrangers avec droit de vote seront attachés en qualité de membres au Conseil chargé de l'organisation de la gendarmerie de la capitale. Des étrangers en qualité d'officiers-instructeurs seront aussi envoyés dans les provinces;

"Les pouvoirs des Gouverneurs-Généraux en ce qui concerne le choix et le changement des officiers de la gendarmerie des provinces seront étendus;

"Conformément aux dispositions de la Constitution prescrivant que les affaires du ressort de la Loi du Cheri'i soient portées par devant les Tribunaux du Cheri'i et les affaires civiles par devant les Tribunaux Civils, un Conseil composé de légistes sera institué pour classifier ces sortes de réclamations et fixer la compétence de ces Tribunaux;

"Un Conseil composé d'Ulémas et de fonctionnaires civils sera chargé de réformer l'Administration des vacoufs dédiés aux temples, aux sanctuaires, et à d'autres établissements de bienfaisance, tout en observant les anciennes règles, mais de sorte que les détenteurs puissent, en cas de besoin, hypothéquer ces immeubles;

"Les sommes affectées pour les écoles Ruschdiés seront allouées aux écoles supérieures. Les dépenses pour les écoles Ruschdiés seront fournies par la population, les revenus des vakoufs de ces écoles, &c. Le Conseil d'Etat élabore en ce moment une loi relative à la formation des Conseils qui administreront ces écoles. La langue Française y sera introduite;

"En conformité des principes consacrés dans la Constitution établissant l'égalité entre tous les sujets de l'Empire, les enfants de toutes les classes de la population seront admis aux écoles Ruschdiés militaires. Le Ministère de la Guerre a été chargé d'étudier les moyens de l'application de cette mesure;

"Toutes ces décisions ayant été sanctionées par Sa Majesté le Sultan, la Sublime Porte a déjà invité les divers départements à procéder à leur exécution."

No. 129.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 1027.)
Therapia, November 24, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the memorandum which I gave to Mahmoud Nedim Pasha on his entering into the Ministry (copy of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 929 of the 29th ultimo) I mentioned, amongst the reforms which in my opinion it was urgent that the Porte should introduce into the Sultan's Asiatic territories, the appointment of a Christian Governor-General of the Vilayet of Erzeroum. I pointed out that this functionary need not be an Armenian, and I suggested that a man like Rustem Pasha might be chosen for the post. The Sultan has acted upon this suggestion, and has already signed his Iradé naming Rustem Pasha Vali of the Province of Erzeroum. I have much satisfaction in communicating to your Lordship this proof of His Majesty's earnest desire to satisfy Her Majesty's Government, and to govern his Christian subjects with justice and impartiality.

I trust that Rustem Pasha will not be deterred by any private considerations from accepting this very important post. His experience in administering the Government of Mount Lebanon, and the strict impartiality he has shown in dealing with its mixed population of Christians and Druses, render him specially qualified for the office the Sultan has conferred upon him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 130.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 2.*)

(No. 1034. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, November 24, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Sultan sent for Sir A. Sandison yesterday evening. Sir Alfred did not see His Majesty, but received a message from him through Munir Bey to the effect that His Majesty, having decided upon appointing Rustem Pasha Governor-General of the Province of Erzeroum, would that evening issue his Imperial Iradé to that effect. His Majesty begged that Sir Alfred would ascertain from the Prime Minister what arrangement his Highness had made to find a successor for Rustem Pasha.

His Majesty further requested Sir Alfred to take to him on the following morning a memorandum in writing from me, *Pro-memorid*, of what had already been done and had yet to be accomplished in His Majesty's Asiatic territories in the shape of reforms, and to state my views on the subject. Munir Bey was directed to add that His Majesty had just raised Suleiman Bey, one of his Aides-de-camp, to the rank of "Liva" (General of Brigade), in view of his accompanying Baker Pasha as his "Adjoint."

In accordance with His Majesty's wishes, which were only communicated to me late last night, I wrote, somewhat hastily, a short memorandum to be given to him by Sir Alfred Sandison early this morning. I instructed Sir Alfred to state to His Majesty that I had only mentioned the most pressing reforms, referring to the general principles upon which they should be based, and leaving the details to be discussed and determined hereafter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Memorandum.

LES réformes à faire dans le Gouvernement des Etats Asiatiques de Sa Majesté, et qui semblent être les plus essentielles, sont:—

1. L'organisation d'un corps de gendarmerie efficace, sans quoi l'existence et la propriété seront toujours menacées. L'essai en a été déjà fait, mais en Anatolie pas un seul Inspecteur capable n'ac encore été nommé. Le succès qu'a eu M. le Capitaine Allix en Crète prouve les grands services que ces fonctionnaires pourraient rendre pourvu qu'ils soient revêtus par Firman de pouvoirs suffisants.

2. Le contrôle sérieux des finances. Beaucoup de Contrôleurs ont été nommés et subdivisés en quatre catégories, mais un seul Contrôleur Européen dans chacun de certains vilayets, revêtu de pouvoirs locaux et independants ferait bien davantage, surtout si le Gouvernement lui accordait la nomination de ses Agents.

3. Un très-grand nombre d'Inspecteurs Judiciaires de Procureurs-Généraux a été nommé, à grand frais, et aux dépens de l'indépendance des Tribunaux Locaux. Il serait à souhaiter que ce nombre d'Inspecteurs fût diminué, et que ceux qui restent soient véritablement capables. Dans ce nombre il devrait se trouver quelques Européens intelligents chargés de la réorganisation des Tribunaux, tels que M. Scalsouni en Crète. Quoique le principe de l'indépendance des Tribunaux vis-à-vis des autorités civiles soit bon, il est difficile à mettre en exécution, jusqu'à ce que ces Tribunaux aient été réorganisés et que l'on ait trouvé comme Juges des hommes capables et intègres. Un aperçu des défauts des nouveaux règlements judiciaires, et des réclamations qu'ils ont suscitées, a déjà été soumis à Sa Majesté Impériale. L'antagonisme qui s'est développé entre les Valis et les Tribunaux produit des résultats très-fâcheux.

4. Le Gouvernement devrait accorder aux Valis des pouvoirs plus étendus et qui les rendent plus indépendants, ainsi que la nomination de leurs Sous-Gouverneurs et des autorités locales, qui, s'il est nécessaire, pourrait être confirmée par la Sublime Porte, mais devraient être responsables des actes de subordonnés qu'ils auront nommés. Ils ne devraient pas être obligés de faire appel pour chaque petite affaire au pouvoir central.

Beaucoup des maux de la Turquie viennent de trop de centralisation administrative. Il serait à souhaiter que le Gouvernement fasse un essai loyal dans le sens contraire. Les Gouverneurs-Généraux devraient être nommés pour un terme fixe de, disons cinq ans, et ceci devrait être constaté dans la rédaction de leurs Firmans. Pour éviter toute difficulté les autorités militaires devraient leur être subordonnées.

5. Des Kaïmakâms et Mudirs, &c., Chrétiens, devraient être nommés dans les endroits où il y a une population Chrétienne considérable.

6. La construction et la réparation des routes ainsi que d'autres mesures pour le développement de l'agriculture et des ressources du pays.

7. La loi qui admet les dépositions des Chrétiens devant les Tribunaux devrait être appliquée rigoureusement.

8. Le Gouvernement devrait donner à Rustem Pacha, qui vient d'être nommé Vali d'Erzéroum, un personnel très-capable. Il devrait lui donner également un Inspecteur de Police très-intelligent, ainsi que des Inspecteurs Judiciaires et des Contrôleurs des Finances.

9. L'amélioration du système pour la perception de la dîme, car les paysans souffrent beaucoup de celui qui est en vigueur, jusqu'à ce que cette imposition puisse être abolie.

Thérapia, ce 24 Novembre, 1879.

No. 131.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 1037.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 25*, 1879.

IN communicating to the Porte extracts from the despatches of Major Trotter, Captain Clayton, and Captain Everett, describing the oppression and ill-treatment to which the Christian populations in their districts are subjected by the Kurds, and, I regret to say, in many instances by the local Turkish authorities, I have considered it desirable to accompany them by a note, again calling the serious attention of the Porte to the state of Armenia. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

I also transmit to your Lordship a pamphlet which, I have reason to believe, has been published and is circulated by the Armenian Patriarchate at Constantinople, describing the sufferings and grievances of the Armenians in Armenia and Kurdistan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Note Verbale.

HER Britannic Majesty's Ambassador feels it his imperative duty to call the attention of the Sublime Porte, once more, to the condition of the Christian populations of Armenia, and to their ill-treatment by the Kurds, and, he grieves to have to state it, in too many instances by the Turkish authorities.

A Commission was sent by the Sublime Porte some months ago to inquire into the condition of the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and, it was hoped, to introduce measures of reform which might at least secure, for the future, to its inhabitants protection for their lives and property. This Commission, Her Majesty's Ambassador has been informed, has effected nothing, with the exception of bringing to trial before the local Tribunals, which are alleged to be notoriously corrupt, some of the Aghas of Ghegh, and some noted criminals of the Beibourt Sandjak who have shamefully oppressed and plundered the Christians of that district. How little has been even done in this matter the accompanying copy of a telegram from the unfortunate Christians of Ghegi, who are reduced to utter misery and despair, will show. The Commission, it is true, has inquired and reported, but it has not been permitted to act.

It has now left Erzeroum in consequence of peremptory orders from the Porte for Van and Mush to renew inquiries, which seem to lead to no results; and general disappointment, and almost despair, have been caused to the populations which had at no time looked to it for justice and redress. Its mission has entirely failed in this respect. This failure is attributed to want of support, if not actual obstruction, from Constantinople, and to the latent opposition of the local authorities

and local Tribunals, and not to any want of integrity or good intentions on the part of the Commissioners themselves. All their efforts to introduce reforms and to improve the condition of the country have been paralyzed, and Her Majesty's Ambassador is assured that the state of the vilayet is no better now than when they arrived there.

It is feared that the visit of the Commissioners to Van and Mush will prove a similar failure. The absence of any good results in the Vilayet of Erzeroum will, it is anticipated, dissuade people from bringing forward their complaints and grievances, as they have good reason to fear that by doing so they will only expose themselves to injury and fresh ill-treatment. Her Majesty's Ambassador, in confirmation of the above statements, begs to communicate to the Porte the accompanying extracts from despatches that he has just received from Erzeroum and Van. The long list of crimes committed with impunity upon Armenians in the district of Bayazid and elsewhere cannot fail to convince the Sublime Porte of the shocking oppression and ill-treatment to which the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan are exposed in that part of his dominions.

It has been recently officially announced that Samih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps, has reduced the Kurdish tribes to obedience, and has received the submission of the Chiefs. Had this result been accomplished by force of arms, and had adequate measures been taken to prevent the Kurds from maltreating and oppressing the Christian populations for the future, Her Majesty's Ambassador would have been the first to offer his sincere congratulations to the Porte. But he regrets to say that, from the information which has reached him, Samih Pasha has only succeeded in pacifying them by means which will tend to encourage them to rise again in rebellion against the Sultan, and to continue to ill-treat the Christian subjects.

It is not by bribing Kurdish Chiefs, or by giving them official rank and positions, that they will be induced to become good and peaceful subjects of His Imperial Majesty, and refrain from deeds of wanton violence and cruelty towards Christians. It is with equal surprise and regret that Her Majesty's Ambassador has learnt that Samih Pasha has appointed a notorious robber Chief, Mousa Agha, well known for his crimes and for his ill-treatment of the Christians, as Mudir of Abagha, a district between Van, Bayazid, and the Persian frontier, or, as his Excellency himself states, has recognized him as head of the tribes inhabiting that district with the rank of Mudir, an appointment against which both Mussulmans and Christians have, Her Majesty's Ambassador has been informed, protested. It is almost incredible that the Ferik Pasha should, in the presence of Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, have justified it on the ground that, although Mousa Agha had committed robberies and burnt villages, he had never committed murder, and that the Vali should have forgotten that this miscreant openly defied and insulted his Sovereign only a short time ago.

The Sublime Porte cannot be surprised if the unfortunate Christians who are the victims of the cruelty and oppression described in the accompanying Reports should appeal, as a last hope for protection and redress, to the English and Russian Consular officers. Her Majesty's Ambassador can state, with truth, that from the Representatives of Her Majesty's Government these poor people have received advice to wait in hope for better days, to have confidence in the desire of the Sultan to improve this condition, and to remain His Imperial Majesty's faithful subjects. But these unhappy sufferers are almost driven to despair. A deputation of Armenian peasants, to whom the above advice was given by one of Her Majesty's Consuls, replied, "We cannot support our present condition much longer; women, children, and all will have to fight; better to die than to live longer as we are now doing."

The local Turkish authorities have, in many instances, endeavoured to prevent the suffering Christians from making their complaints known to the British Consular officers. Her Majesty's Ambassador regrets to have to mention the following instance:—The headman of a village a short distance from Van, who had been imprisoned on account of a difference with some soldiers, sent a petition to the British Vice-Consul at that place. A few days after, when in Van, he was arrested by the military, and brought before the Vali. The Ferik Pasha, who was present, thus addressed the man:—"I will send a battalion of troops, and destroy your whole village, and then you can go and complain to the English and Russian Consuls, or whomever you like, and see what they can do to help you." Her Majesty's Vice-Consul has very properly demanded a public apology from the Ferik for this insult

to his Government and himself, and Her Majesty's Ambassador is now waiting to learn whether he has received it.

Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum has for a long time past urgently represented to the Vali the pitiable state of the population of the district of Bayazid, and of other districts under his Government, on account of the absolute dearth of food, and has made earnest appeals to his sentiments of humanity, and to his sense of duty as the protector of the Sultan's subjects, to provide them with grain for seed and for food. But his representations and remonstrances appear to have been worse than useless. By a telegram from him, dated the 19th instant, Her Majesty's Ambassador learns that his Excellency has not only given no assistance whatever to the Christian peasants, but has deceived them by promises, so as to dissuade them from emigrating, and that, as the roads are now blocked by snow, they will die of hunger in large numbers.

It would, moreover, appear that several years' arrears of taxes are being urgently demanded from these unfortunate districts, and that numbers of the inhabitants are being imprisoned for non-compliance with these demands. Even those who had emigrated to Russia during the war have been called upon to pay taxes for the period during which they were absent.

Her Majesty's Ambassador is convinced that in calling the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the facts he has placed before it, and to the present condition of the Christian population of Armenia, he is rendering a real service to the Ottoman Government, which, animated, as he has every reason to believe it to be, by a sincere desire to ameliorate the condition of the Christian subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and to put an end to their sufferings, will lose no time in taking measures with the object of carrying out those reforms which can alone lead them to hope for justice and redress.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

British Embassy, Therapia, November 23, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Pamphlet entitled "L'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin."

No. 132.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 1038.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note from Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, with respect to the scarcity of wheat in the Vilayet of Van.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Van, October* 9, 1879

I HAVE the honour to report the following facts with regard to the harvest in this vilayet, the supply of grain, and the agricultural prospects for the ensuing year:—

The price of wheat in the market of Van is at present between three and four times the average price of the preceding five years. Previous to the war the price of wheat was between 25 and 30 piastres the "chap;" during the war the price rose very considerably, but last year it fell again to 40 piastres. Now, however, the price is 120 piastres the chap.* Barley, the principal food for horses in these parts,

* 1 chap equal to 30 okes, 1 oke equal to 2·83 lbs. 100 piastres currency are equal to 66 piastres silver. The price of wheat is therefore about 13*s.* 9*d.* per chap of 84½ lbs.

is scarcely to be obtained at all, and the price asked for the little that is in the market is 70 piastres the chap.

The following are the principal causes of the scarcity and high price of grain:—In the first place, the effects of the war have shown themselves in a scarcity of seed, limiting the area of land sown with grain. The insecurity of the country and the ravages of the Kurds have produced the same effect, and the Kurds have also carried off or destroyed part of the grain which has been grown. Further, the failure of the harvest in neighbouring districts from drought and locusts caused a very large exportation, which raised prices; but exportation has now been prohibited.

The high price of corn in the district of Van has given rise to much distress; indeed, the popular agitation was so great last week that the bakers closed their shops, fearing an attack on them. The Government then took steps to relieve the wants of the people. They have large stores of wheat, the produce of the tithe, and they are now issuing every day half a kilé (a Van kilé is 8 chaps) to each of four bakeries, and the bread made is sold at the rate of 2½ piastres the oke. As, moreover, there is reported to be a great dearth of seed-corn among the peasants, the Government proposes to send agents round to find out what quantity is required in the various localities, and afterwards to provide what is necessary. But the time is passing for the autumn sowing.

I fear that, in any case, the poor will suffer greatly during the coming winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. CLAYTON.

No. 133.

Captain Everett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 3.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* 15, 1879.

IN compliance with instructions received from Major Trotter, who left for Diarbekir on the 10th instant, I beg to forward you a copy of my despatch reporting on the districts of Passin, Alashgerd, and Kara-kilissa, and have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Erzeroum, November* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have again visited the districts of Passin, Alashgerd, and Kara-kilissa.

The Kaïmakam of Passin still awaits orders for the distribution of wheat, and has begged me to bring to the notice of the Vali that only half the population of that Kaïmakamlik can afford to purchase, should permission be given to sell from the Government stores. Taxes for three years are being now collected in this district. In some of the villages the dearth of wheat is very great; and at the Turkish village of Alaguz it was reported to me that there was only flour enough to last ten days longer.

I found the population of the districts of Alashgerd and Kara-kilissa in a state of intense excitement. Ibrahim Pasha, the newly-appointed Mutessarif for the Sandjak of Bayazid, when passing through Toprak-kaleh to his post, had requested the Kaïmakam to ascertain the amount of wheat required by the people of the district. The Kaïmakam assured me this had been done, and that the list had been forwarded to Bayazid, but here the matter had ended. In Kara-kilissa no arrangements at all appear to have been made, even for ascertaining the amount of wheat that the district would require.

On his arrival at Bayazid the Mutessarif immediately sent written instructions to the Kaïmakams of all the districts in his sandjak for the immediate collection of all taxes and arrears of taxes. The execution of this order, which I am in a position

to state was couched in peremptory terms, has produced consternation and dismay among the Christian inhabitants.

I have already given you, in a previous despatch, an account of the emigrations made by the Christian inhabitants of these districts during the war, and you are also aware of their present destitution consequent on these emigrations, and how that the failure of this year's harvest has completed their ruin.

These circumstances were also well known to the Mutessarif, who was informed of the state of the country by you as well as by myself, and was requested to show a leniency in the collection of the taxes compatible with the situation of these unfortunate people. This leniency he has not shown. In place of it he has sent an order for the collection of all arrears, including the period when the emigrants were absent from the country, and accompanied by a list showing the taxes required, some of which are demanded as far back as 1873, although the people declare, and there can be no doubt on the point, that all taxes have been paid up to the date of the first emigration in 1877. The total amount asked for, according to the figures shown in this list, is 567,359 piastres. The Kaïmakams of the districts, being compelled to comply with this order, have been obliged to have recourse to imprisonment in order to extort the money from the people—a futile expedient where there is no money to extort. The Mutessarif has requested that the whole of the tithe in these districts be forwarded to Bayazid. Owing to the want of oxen in some of the villages great difficulty is found in complying with the order.

A certain Osman Effendi, the collector of taxes for the Kara-kilissa district, is quite unfitted for the post he holds, and it would be advisable to take steps to procure his dismissal.

He was appointed ten months ago from Erzeroum, has since robbed the Government wheat-stores of 800 somars of wheat, and is now taking the taxes from the people in money, and giving them receipts which they cannot read in caïmé. The Kaïmakam of Kara-kilissa has himself requested me to use my influence for his dismissal, and the people, suffering greatly from his misconduct, are praying to be relieved of his presence. At this moment there is an official from Bayazid investigating the robbery from the Government stores. The Kaïmakam has given me to understand that there is no doubt of Osman's guilt.

I also wish to move for the dismissal of the Cadi of Alashgerd. On my arrival at Mollah-Suleiman—a Catholic Armenian village in the neighbourhood of Toprak-kaleh—my room was filled with the peasantry who came to complain of the want of wheat and sudden order for the collection of the taxes. Of these men three were shortly afterwards beaten and imprisoned by order of the Cadi, because, according to the statement of the others, they came to make complaints to me. On taxing the Cadi with it, he admitted the imprisonment, but informed me that he had so acted because the men had behaved impertinently to him in refusing to pay their taxes. If this be true, the Cadi certainly interfered in matters where he had no business, since the collection of taxes is not one of the functions of this officer. The men were released at the request of the Kaïmakam, shortly after my interview with the officials. The Christian member of the Medjliss at Toprak-kaleh and many others begged that I would endeavour to rid them of this man, from whom they are unable to obtain any justice, who illegally beats them, and who, having considerable influence with the Kaïmakam, causes them at all times to be treated without mercy. I have reason to believe a petition has been set on foot praying for his dismissal.

In the Deli-baba Pass I overtook about 200 Armenian emigrants, returning from Russia to their villages in Alashgerd. They informed me that, before leaving that country, they received 5 manets (100 piastres) per family from the Government, and that, in crossing the frontier, the Turkish soldiers took from them 25 manets per family. This was done twice over, once at Zewin and again at Tchiflik. I have had no means of ascertaining the truth of either of these statements; but, as the emigrants had no reason to suppose that I was travelling in any official capacity, they had no object in telling me an untruth.

I also passed several families of Kurdish refugees making their way into Alashgerd, and, from information I received at Dabar, it appears that large numbers of Armenians and Kurds are daily passing into the country.

The effect of this movement is to increase largely the number of mouths to be fed in this district during the winter, and therefore also to increase the difficulties of the Government in this respect. 900 families of Tihanli Kurds, who, on the occasion of my first visit, were living in tents in the neighbourhood of Toprak-kaleh, have now been billeted by small detachments throughout the villages, to the great discomfort of the residents, both Christian and Moslem. I believe this is only a temporary measure, but it is exceedingly injudicious to add so large a unit to the population at the present crisis.

Generally speaking, I have found the people in a state of exasperation. They had looked for a supply of grain and some remission of the taxes, as the result of my previous visit. They had hoped that the new Mutessarif, aware of the present policy of the English Government, and influenced by the counsels of its Consuls, would have commenced his rule with leniency, and would have energetically applied himself to remedy, as far as in him lay, the existing evils. His first act, however, has been one of such severity as to cause dismay through the district and much alarm for the future. On the way to Bayazid he appears to have remarked to the people that they emigrated more for love of the Russians than for fear of the Kurds, and to have intimated to them and to the officials that they do not deserve much consideration. At Kara-kilissa a petition was handed to him, but he passed it on unread to the Kaïmakam.

The depredations of the Kurds do not appear to have decreased, nor does it seem that any steps have been taken to check them. In fact, the only act of the Mutessarif has been the order for the collection of the taxes.

On my return here from the districts, I had an interview with the Vali, and informed him of the state of affairs. On the question of wheat, his Excellency stated that he purposed selling from the Government stores to those who could buy, and that he had already demanded, by telegraph, from the Minister of Finance at Constantinople, permission to supply wheat without payment to those who could not so afford. No answer to this telegram had as yet been received.

The Vali showed a strong disinclination to believe that the new Mutessarif had issued so peremptory an order for the collection of the arrears of taxes, especially for arrears which must have been certainly already paid, but he promised to write to the Mutessarif immediately.

I informed his Excellency of the illegal tax levied by the frontier troops on the emigrants; although acknowledging the illegality of the proceeding, he did not seem inclined to give much prominence to the affair.

The Pasha was already acquainted with the evil doings of Osman Effendi, and promised to make further inquiries respecting both him and the Cadi.

I do not consider the result of my interview as satisfactory. As you are well aware, the Vali was thoroughly informed of the dearth of wheat on the occasion of my first visit to these districts, since when there has been ample time to make the necessary arrangements for distribution in time for the autumnal sowing. But nothing has been done, and in a few days this period will have passed away. The policy is short-sighted, for, by not having enabled the people to sow this autumn, the tithe may be considerably lessened next year.

I think it would be extremely desirable that some pressure from Constantinople should be put on the Administration here, in order to stir it to immediate action, for in some villages, as I have already remarked, the dearth of grain is very great.

Trusting that these questions may receive your earnest consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 134.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1443.)

Foreign Office, December 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatches Nos. 982 and 983 of the 13th ultimo, and to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government approve the communications you have made to the Porte of the reports there specified, which have been received from Colonel Wilson and Major Trotter relative to the state of affairs in their Consular districts.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1445.)

Foreign Office, December 4, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Malet's despatch No. 352 of the 26th April last, relative to the alleged ill-treatment of certain Christian emigrants from Soukoum-kaleh, in the district of Amasia, to which attention had been called by the Rev. Mr. Wood on behalf of the American missionaries at Constantinople, I now transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Report upon this subject which I have received from Colonel Wilson.*

I request that your Excellency will cause further investigation to be made in order to ascertain the fate of such of these persons as are stated to have been sold and removed from Amasia to Stamboul, according to the information obtained by Mr. Blake, whose Report is inclosed with Colonel Wilson's despatch above mentioned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 136.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1447.)

Foreign Office, December 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to express to your Excellency the satisfaction with which I have learned, from your despatch No. 1001 of the 17th ultimo, that the representations you have made to the Porte have been successful in obtaining permission for the Circassians of Azur Zailar to winter their horses, as usual, in the Vilayet of Adana.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBUBY.

No. 137.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Wilson.

(No. 51.)

Foreign Office, December 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 21 of the 28th October last, relative to the ill-treatment of certain Christian emigrants from Soukoum-kaleh by the Turkish authorities in the district of Amasia.

I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of an instruction which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople upon this subject.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 138.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1046.)

Pera, November 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van respecting the miserable condition of the Christian population of Murduz, Shaddakh, and Gevver.

I have communicated a résumé of this despatch to the Sublime Porte, and have made a strong representation to them on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* No. 97.

† No. 135.

Inclosure 1 in No. 138.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE within the last week received strong reports of their miserable condition from the Christian population of Murduz, Shaddakh, and Gevver.

A considerable number (some sixty persons) arrived in Van from Murduz some four or five days ago, and some of them came to me, saying that having been robbed by Kurds of almost all they possessed, the Government had now come upon them for taxes. The Kadi of Shaddakh had come to their villages and ordered all their corn to be carried to Julamerk. They said that if this order were carried out they would have nothing to live on during the winter, and that, therefore, they had come from Murduz with their families to see if the Government could be induced to look favourably on their condition and leave them their corn; if not, they should not return home, but must go on over the frontier in hopes of finding means of living under another Government.

I spoke to the Pasha about these people, but without getting a very satisfactory reply. He said that a great many persons always tried to avoid paying their taxes though perfectly able to do so, and that there was a Commission appointed to examine into all cases of distress, &c., reported, and to give assistance where needed. This would be satisfactory enough if one could feel confidence in the Commission doing its work quickly and fairly, but it is merely a Committee composed of the usual officials, and sits here, and, as far as I can learn, does nothing. I said to the Pasha that the fact of these refugees having left their homes rendered the inference fair that their account was true, for if they possessed means of living they would hardly come away abandoning their property, and I wished him to give them an assurance that their case should be considered, so that they might be induced to return home instead of leaving the country, but he did not seem inclined to accept this suggestion. The people of Gevver have also sent to me a deputation with a letter, detailing their condition and asking for help, of which I inclose a translation. They have given a similar letter to the Russian Vice-Consul, with the addition in his case that if he cannot help them where they are, they beg him to assist them to emigrate.

Temurxegha's people have also again been pillaging a mill a few hours from here. I am not at present in a position fully to understand the intention of the Government with regard to the Kurds, and the protection of the peasantry. On the one hand they seem to be principally anxious to raise money. A number of Kurdish Chiefs have been summoned here and have had money demanded from them, and been told that when the money is paid they will be allowed to go. Two Chiefs, one a Kurd, and the other a Yezidi, have called on me this week and told me that such was the case as regards themselves, and Moussa Agha departed yesterday for his country, having, it is said, paid 1,700 liras. On the other hand the notorious robber Chelauk has been captured and was brought here yesterday in chains and lodged in prison, and it is said Samih Pasha intends to hang him. Orders have also, it is said, been given for the capture of Haidernuli Hamzo. In a short time I shall hope to be able to get a clearer view of the intentions of the authorities.

Up to the present time, however, there has not appeared any desire to protect the Christians or to recover for them any of the property that has been stolen, and it has really looked as if the Government, if not actually desirous of driving the Christians out, was, at all events, not displeased to see them go. I am afraid also that the Kurds who have had to pay money will recoup themselves by fresh pillage and robbery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 138.

Petition.

Gevver, October $\frac{19}{31}$, 1879.

MAY love and greeting be given to the honourable Consul of Great Britain at Van.

You know well how the Kurds of our neighbourhood are treating us. They plunder our churches and ruin our country. Our monastery has been attacked and robbed by them of all its contents. Besides, they attacked our village, killed two men and wounded several persons, and carried off all we possessed—money and goods. The plunder they

obtained was 3,150 sheep, 250 cattle, and many other things. So we have been left in our villages naked, hungry, and thirsty, and there is nobody to pity us and protect us. We appeal continually to the Government, but the authorities do what the Sheikh pleases, and the officials sent from Van to inquire into our deplorable condition do the same thing. Who will, then, protect the poor Christians? Who will pity them and try to alleviate their hard destiny? There is no one, and we are like a flock of sheep dispersed and scattered abroad without a shepherd, and of course everybody will attack and plunder us.

We therefore entreat you to exert all possible efforts in behalf of our poor nation, for we are yours, and you are ours. Come, then, magnanimously to save us from our heavy distress and misery, and you will gain a great glory for your name by doing us this great benefit, because we have no one to help us, and we therefore raise our eyes in the first place to God, and then to you. We know no one else who will work for us. You can see how many villages have been plundered and destroyed, how many Christians have been killed and wounded, and there was no one to pity us. Besides the monastery, fifteen other churches have been plundered. Our crosses and ornaments have been cut to pieces to make ornaments for their women; our holy gospels have been profaned; our families have been bereft of their clothes and left naked. Who can endure such miseries? Do feel pity on us, oh patriotic lords! and help us for the sake of our crucified Lord Jesus Christ, and if you will not take care of us, do not hand us over to the Sheikhs.

(Signed) Archbishop ANDREAS, *Vicar of Mas Shimoun.*
(And 18 other signatures.)

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 1049.)
My Lord,
Pera, November 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that General Baker Pasha left Constantinople yesterday afternoon by the Russian steamer for Alexandretta, the port of Aleppo, whence he will proceed to enter upon the duties of his special mission as Inspector-General of Reforms in Asia Minor. Baker Pasha is accompanied by the following Staff: Said Pasha, ex-Governor of Tricalla; Major-General Suleiman Pasha; Colonel Tahir Bey, of the Imperial Ottoman Gendarmerie; Lieutenant-Colonel Shakir Bey; Major Zihny Bey; Lieutenant Youssouf Tahir Bey, as Aide-de-camp; and Mr. George B. Burgin as Private Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 9.)

(No. 1051.)
My Lord,
Pera, December 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches addressed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan respecting the state of the Hakkiari.

With reference to Captain Clayton's despatch No. 20 I may observe that I have made representations on the subject to the Porte, and am still continuing the pressure which, according to Captain Clayton's account, has already produced good results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir,
Van, November 7, 1879.

I HAVE received information from which it appears that the condition of the country in Hakkiari is even worse than I was previously aware of. I am told that 144 villages have been laid waste in the districts of Bashkala, Gevver, Neria, and Zulamerk, of which more than 100 were Christian. The Christian villages were wasted by the Kurds, and the others were Kurdish villages which were destroyed by the troops sent to quell the disturbances.

All these villages are now absolutely tenantless, the majority of the inhabitants having wandered into Persian or Russian territory while the minority are scattered as mendicants among the villages which still remain. This wholesale desertion of their homes was rendered necessary by the total destruction or loss of their means of living.

I have been informed that the Government intends to send Agents into Hakkiari to investigate the amount of distress there existing, and where necessary to give relief from the Government stores of grain. This, if carried out promptly, will no doubt do something to alleviate the prevailing distress, but I fear that in very many cases this aid will come too late.

I am glad to say that in a few cases lately the authorities have given signs of more activity, and of some desire to repress robbery and exact compensation from the robbers to the victims, and I hope that this will prove the beginning of a systematic effort to improve the condition of the country, but much, very much, remains still in a terribly unsatisfactory condition, and I am sure that unrelaxed vigilance and exertion will be necessary on the part of England and her Agents to insure a substantial improvement.

Two days ago four men came to me who said they were the principal men of villages in the district of Redwan, in the Vilayet of Diarbekir. They informed me that they had been obliged to leave their homes on account of the threats of the Kurds who, irritated at the banishment of their Chiefs, were vowing destruction to the Christians, especially those whom they suspected of having given information to the Reform Commissioners. I asked them why they did not go and represent their case to the authorities at Diarbekir and to the English Vice-Consul there, and they replied that the road thither was so unsafe that they dared not attempt it; therefore, they had come to me in the hope that I would represent their condition to you, and intended to proceed to Echmiadzin to see the Armenian Catholics. I promised them to let you know of their case, though you probably know more of the circumstances of the vilayet from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Van, November 8, 1879.

THE person from whom I derived the information about the state of Hakkiari, given in my despatch of the 7th instant, is a Russian Armenian from Tiflis, a "loupeur," Joseph Amiroff by name, who has just come from those parts. I have not seen him myself as yet, as I was out when he called on me, but the Russian Vice-Consul's Dragoman, who reported to me what he had said (Major Kunsaragan himself being absent), told me that he had enumerated the destroyed villages by name, with the numbers of their inhabitants, indicating a pretty accurate knowledge. I had a long and friendly conversation with Samih Pasha yesterday, in the course of which I obtained some corroboration of Amiroff's statements.

Samih Pasha told me that when his Aides-de-camp returned four or five days ago from their mission to Sheikh Ubeydullah, he asked them in what state they found the country, and they replied that great numbers of the inhabitants were leaving it on account of the want of means of living. The Pasha then said that, on receipt of this information, he had consulted with the Vali, and they had decided to send the Agents to give relief mentioned in my despatch of the 7th instant.

Samih Pasha also said to me that his principal object as yet had been to guard against

the danger of insurrection, and therefore his policy had been generally to make friends with the Kurdish Chiefs, but that in the spring he intended to take the field and punish robbers and enforce order and tranquillity. The redifs have all been disbanded and sent home, and their places taken in the most important localities by the nizam.

There have been two or three cases lately reported of ill-behaviour to the villagers on the part of the troops, but Samih Pasha has promised to investigate them and punish the wrong-doers. In one or two cases also the authorities have shown an inclination to do justice in the case of robberies; for instance, the notorious robber Chelenk has been made prisoner, orders have been issued to capture Haidaranli Hamzo dead or alive, and another Chief has been forced to give a money compensation to some villagers whose flocks he had carried off.

These instances show that the pressure applied by the English Government is producing some effect, and if Samih Pasha carries out his expressed intentions, a great advance will have been made; but it is impossible not to feel some fear lest the execution of promises should be evaded, the carrying out of which will go against existing prejudices and traditions, and the danger must be carefully guarded against of specious action intended to blind the eyes of lookers on while leaving the evil below untouched and unhealed.

There is even a suspicious side to the relief promised to the inhabitants of Hakkiari. The Government has for some time been aware of great distress there, and representatives of many villages have been here to detail their condition and wants, and a Commission has been sitting to investigate the state of the case, but active measures of relief have not yet been taken, and heavy snow has already fallen in the mountains, so that it is doubtful whether it is not too late to begin the autumn sowing in the mountainous regions. If so the Government relief will be too late to secure a harvest next year, and will only serve to exonerate the authorities in appearance from responsibility for any distress that may arise next year, and in the meantime the emigration of the Christian population is a great fact that should not be lost sight of.

The son of Cheikh Ubeydullah accompanied Samih Pasha's aides-de-camp hither personally to make his submission to the Government, but, as Samih Pasha observed to me, when a man has once got the idea of creating for himself a Principality, he does not lightly give it up, and therefore the Sheikh will always have to be carefully watched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1054.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 1, 1879.*

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform your Lordship that the Porte has decided, in consequence of my representations, to appoint at once some Europeans as Inspectors of Turkish Tribunals in Asiatic Turkey. The Minister of Justice has been directed to recommend an Englishman for the office, and I understand that his choice has fallen upon Mr. Ede, an English lawyer practising at Constantinople, who enjoys an excellent character, and who is well acquainted with the Turkish law and the Turkish language. It is so difficult to find Englishmen with these absolutely necessary qualifications, that Mr. Ede, whom I had suggested long ago as a proper person to fill this appointment, is almost the only one I know of who is fitted for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1057.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 1, 1879.*

BAKER PASHA'S Instructions were, I understand, not quite ready when he left for Aleppo on Saturday last. They will be taken to him by Said Pasha, who is to accompany

him, and who will leave on Wednesday or Thursday next to join him. I hope to obtain a copy of them. One of the Constantinople newspapers, the "Stamboul," publishes the inclosed article, purporting to give the substance of them. If they are such as this journal states, which I cannot aver, they may be considered as highly satisfactory.

Said Pasha, with whom I have had a long conversation, said to me that he was quite satisfied with the powers given to Baker Pasha, which were sufficient, he believed, to enable him to act with energy and independence, and to effect great good. Baker Pasha himself seemed to think that his position and authority would be such as to enable him to carry out the mission with which he is charged. He is furnished with letters to all the Governors-General, in which the Sultan's Imperial Iradé appointing him Inspector-General of the Gendarmerie, and entrusting him with other important duties, is set forth. This, I am assured, renders any special Firman unnecessary. I have, however, advised that a Firman of some kind should be given to him, as European public opinion attaches importance to such a document.

Said Pasha, who goes with Baker Pasha, has filled several important offices, the last being that of Governor-General of Thessaly, in which he has gained a high reputation for integrity and for capacity. He is a man of liberal and enlightened opinions and speaks French. His appointment may be considered a very good one. Baker Pasha has been allowed to take with him Shakir Bey, an officer in whom he has great confidence, and Tahir Bey, who was formerly in the British service in India in connection with the police, and is a trustworthy person. The Sultan has named one of his aides-de-camp, Suleiman Bey, whom he has raised to the rank of Pasha, and who is an officer in the Imperial Navy, and speaks English and French, to accompany Baker Pasha. I do not hear a very favourable account of him from some persons, who describe him to me as being very unfavourably disposed towards Europeans. I am not personally acquainted with him. He is, perhaps, sent by His Majesty to watch over the proceedings of the mission, and to keep His Majesty privately informed of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Mr. Blunt's despatch to me, No. 120 of the 23rd November (copy of which he has transmitted to your Lordship), will show the high estimation in which Said Pasha was held in Thessaly.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of November 29.

LA MISSION DE BAKER PACHA.—Son Excellence Said Pacha, qui était Sous-Gouverneur de Trikala, et qui a été dernièrement attaché à la mission de son Excellence Baker Pacha, est arrivé ici. Le départ de son Excellence le Général Baker pour sa destination, qui était fixé pour aujourd'hui, a été remis à Mercredi prochain. Ce jour-là son Excellence, accompagné de Said Pacha et d'une nombreuse suite, quittera notre ville par un bateau spécial se rendant à Alexandrette.

D'après nos informations particulières, la mission de son Excellence Baker Pacha, qui ne donnait pas une explication satisfaisante dans sa dénomination vague d'Inspecteur-Général d'Anatolie, est très-étendue en vertu de l'entente intervenue entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie.

La mission de Baker Pacha consisterait à avoir le haut contrôle sur l'administration de toutes les provinces d'Anatolie, mission analogue à celle dont Ahmed Vefik Pacha fut chargé sous le règne d'Abdul Aziz. Son Excellence Baker Pacha sera en quelque sorte moralement responsable devant l'Europe de la situation de la partie Asiatique de l'Empire qu'il est appelé à surveiller, puisque tous les Gouverneurs, Sous-Gouverneurs, et autres fonctionnaires des provinces sont tenus à soumettre tous leurs actes à ce Délégué muni de pleins pouvoirs par Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Les réformes locales, de concert avec les Gouverneurs-Généraux, seront appliquées sans en référer au Gouvernement Central, et les réformes, en général, seront soumises à la Sublime Porte pour la sanction Impériale. Les fonctionnaires de toutes classes jusqu'au Sous-Gouverneur seront destitués sur la demande de l'Inspecteur-Général d'accord avec le Vali du vilayet. Quant à la destitution de Gouverneurs-Généraux, elle sera déférée à la Sublime Porte.

La résidence de Baker Pacha sera la ville de Diarbékir. Il ne résidera d'ailleurs dans cette ville qu'un certain temps. Quant au reste il sera le plus souvent en tournées à travers toute l'Anatolie. Son Excellence dans toutes ses fonctions sera considéré comme Représentant de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et n'aura nullement le caractère d'une autorité étrangère.

Baker Pacha pourra être remplacé par un autre de concert avec le Cabinet Britannique.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 1062.) *Pera, December 2, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copies of a despatch and a private letter addressed to me by Lieutenant Chermside reporting on the state of the refugees in the Aleppo Vilayet, and asking for instructions as to his further movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Tarsus, November 20, 1879.

Dear Sir Henry,

THANK you very much for your long letter of the 27th October; it was very good of you to write. I am very much obliged indeed for the money you have been good enough to give me authority to draw for the refugees. The reason I have done nothing is that I fell ill of diphtheria, and now I am convalescent, a prisoner here against my will; but it was out of the question taking me back over the mountains, and the doctor was obliged to bring me somewhere where there is a pharmacy, some drugs, &c. As regards the refugees, what I propose to do is this: to urge and shame and worry the authorities into giving them rations of grain where necessary, as is the case in almost all cases; and also, as Saïd has promised, and has actually done in one case, to get officers (military) told off to actually visit the sites, mark out the ground, and assist in constructing the dwellings; then it is that I propose to help, as far as funds allow me, buying a few pairs of oxen when necessary for the community, buying tools, &c., and, if necessary, assisting in the transport of material for the dwellings. The actual giving of food is merely transient and temporary, and, if anything, except in attendant in extreme cases, merely enables the authorities, who possess, as a rule, Government grain, to shirk their obligations. Sadi Bey, a highly-salaried official for the whole vilayet, who lives at Aleppo, and mostly remains stationary, assured me every refugee in the Marash district was settled; and I, on the contrary, and Said Pasha is now quite agreed, challenge him to show one family really settled. Pushed on from place to place, no one will receive them; villages which cultivate enormous tracts of land, cultivating different pieces different years, refuse to give up any, and the poor wretches suffer as I have described. The method of the authorities is this: the Mutessarif receives from head-quarters a notification that so many families are coming and are to be established; somebody suggests a place, and he writes to the Kaïmakam, the latter again perhaps to a Mudir, but at best the people, without oxen, seed, implements, &c., camp on the ground, and live on the Government dole, or, when this is withheld or discontinued, as best they can. No one actually definitely shows the site of villages, marks out the ground family by family, sees that dwellings are made, that they have means of tilling the soil, &c.; and this is absolutely necessary, not only as regards the present, but to avoid future complications.

The refugees, on their side, are often very unreasonable; they wish to attach themselves to the sites of existing villages; unless at hand there is a copious brook capable of irrigating land, no matter what springs there may be, and capabilities of wells, they are not content; then, too, there must be a ready-made forest to destroy, and so on.

The civil Turkish authorities, who, bred in the traditions of the Bureaux of the Porte, have long since lost all capability of initiative or active administration, and can only sit

all day in their offices or the divans doing clerical work, are in this, as in most other matters, utterly incompetent. Military Governors all over the country seem to me one of the best chances of somewhat improving and strengthening the demoralized, disorganized, chaotic state of the Administration. The discipline and activity of a military life must have inculcated habits preferable to those that the fatal corruption and dishonesty of the civil Bureaux has engendered, and just now Turkey must have an infinity of officers whose services she can dispense with better fitted for Governors of all classes than the existing ones, but I suppose the vested interests of the class in possession are too strong. I am very glad to hear that the Zeitoun Amnesty has been granted.

I cannot forward my Report on what has been done for some little time yet. The reason I got separated from the Commission was this: knowing that the Porte would take some time to answer Saïd's telegram, I got him to cause the Andarin and Elbistan Kaïmakams to furnish me lists of the refugees in their districts, and then I determined to beat up and also to inquire into the exactions and oppressions of the Déré Beys and Notables in these districts, which, according to the inhabitants (and I am sorry to say all I saw confirmed it), were quite outrageous. I was in the Andarin mountains when taken ill, and had of necessity to do as I have done. The old feudal Chiefs, Déré Beys, &c., at Marash, as you are aware, almost invariably rule the Governors. I am much concerned to learn that during my absence there is every reason to fear that Saïd is being duped and deceived by these people, and has fallen into the hands of this "ring." Many of these men ought undoubtedly to be exiled.

As regards the Zeitoun question, I am perfectly satisfied with what has been done, but the great fear is that, in the future, the officials will not loyally carry it out; if so, of course the question has merely been patched up, and the intriguing Armenians will take care that the just discontent caused by local grievances and injustice serves them as a political weapon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Tarsus, November 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I am temporarily separated from the Aleppo Reform Commission by fortuitous circumstances, but I hope to start to rejoin it before the end of the month. Pending the answer to Saïd Pasha's telegram concerning the amnesty I was travelling to the neighbourhood of Zeitoun inquiring into the alleged grievances of the population at the hands of Déré Beys, and into the condition of the refugees, many of whom had come to Zeitoun to present petitions describing their miserable condition.

I was taken ill with diphtheria, and the doctor on arrival found it impossible to move me back across the mountains to Marash; I was therefore as soon as fit to be moved brought here.

I telegraphed the following to your Excellency to-day:—

"Zeitoun prisoners have been released. Commission leaves Marash for Aleppo Sunday."

Saïd Pasha, I believe partly owing to an accidental sprain, partly on account of business, has for the present abandoned the intention of visiting Wafa, the portions of Aleppo Vilayet lying in Mesopotamia, as well as the desert province of Zor. I very much regret this because from the attitude of the Arabs in the desert it seems very possible that a question far more important for the Turkish Government than the Zeitoun one may arise. The condition of the Sandjak of Wafa also, I believe, calls for personal examination on the part of the Governor-General.

Until I reach Aleppo I am unaware if the project of these journeys is abandoned or only temporarily deferred. Neither the Consul nor myself have visited these districts, though we have every reason to fear that they are in the same chaotic state as regards the administration as the rest of the vilayet.

On arrival at Aleppo I propose to write a despatch on the subject to your Excellency, as I believe Saïd Pasha is anxious that I should visit the desert province even if he cannot. It will be then for your Excellency to decide whether you wish me to visit and report on these districts, which are especially important in a military point of view, or not, and in the latter case, whether you wish to retain me still in the Aleppo Vilayet. The Zeitoun

affair may be considered finished, and the assembly of local Delegates that sat at Aleppo during July and August under the direction of the Commission may be assumed to have fairly formulated the wants of the country. To their resolutions and propositions no answer has yet been returned, but I trust the Porte will take an early opportunity of doing so.

This, in my humble opinion, may be said to terminate the labours that it is advisable an Imperial Commission should undertake, unless it complete its personal inspection by visiting the remaining districts of the vilayet.

The Commission is a very great expense to the Government; its presence at the seat of the Government generally unnecessary, and even an obstruction to the administration of business. The want of executive of these Commissions in at once instituting reforms and initiating changes that must be referred to the Porte and discussed; that due to want of funds and other causes are not understood by a people so ignorant and primitive as those with whom they have to deal, and when once the necessary inquiries and investigations have been made the protracted presence of an Imperial Commission seems likely to be productive of more harm than good. It cannot well be an executive Reform Commission, for the application of the reforms it is to introduce must be the gradual work of years, and all this time it interferes with the normal functions of the Government.

The proceeding of making Said Pasha at once First Commissioner and Vali seems a most judicious one, but when his tour of inspection as Commissioner is once finished, there seems no reason why he should retain the functions and pay of Commissioner, or keep the remaining members and officials.

What I believe to be wanted are subordinate officials, picked men, as honest and upright as can be found; a large proportion, I think, might be soldiers. These men should form Sub-Commissions under the Governor-General of the province, and their work would take years, for it would be the actual executive imitation of certain elementary changes and improvements which all experience hitherto has shown it perfectly futile to delegate to local Governors. It would be to actually superintend in person the reforms, such as the demarcation of property, the establishment in proper villages of the nomads, public works, the collection of the taxes, and the various other reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 144.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Sir, *Van, November* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to the affair which is the subject of my last despatch No. 16, Political, I have the honour to report further as follows:—

The original difficulty between the Headman of the village and the military was this. An officer and three privates, with a Kurd as guide, arrived at the village of Haraganz, four or five hours from Van, on Saturday, 18th October. They demanded certain provisions. The Headman replied that he had not got what was required, but that if money was given him he would procure the articles asked for. On this the Kurdish guide was ordered to beat the villager, which order was carried out, and the soldiers proceeded on their way, beating another inhabitant of the village whom they met on the road. Two or three days later the Headman was arrested in Van and brought before the Pashas, when the events took place which I narrated in my last despatch.

On Sunday, 26th October, the day after I had seen the Vali and Samih Pasha, and demanded satisfaction, my Dragoman received a note from the Mouavin, saying that the day previously I had asked for information from the Pasha about the affair of the village Headman, and that if my Dragoman would call on him (the Mouavin) he would give him any information that was wanted. As this was no proper reply to the demand made by me personally and officially to the Vali for satisfaction for the speech of the Ferik Pasha, I took no notice of the communication.

On Monday I called upon Keorg Bey, an influential Armenian, who had been present when the Ferik Pasha made use of the words complained of, and he gave me the most positive assurance that the words had been properly reported to me, with the unimportant correction that the Pasha had not said "I will send a battalion to destroy your village, and then you can go and complain to the English and Russian Consuls, or whoever you like, and see what they can do to help you," but "a battalion is on the road; I will send them orders to destroy your village, &c." The evidence of Keorg Bey is unimpeachable, both from his age and respectability, and more especially as he has always been very friendly with the Vali Pasha and the Turks, more so than the Armenians generally quite approve. He was, I find, the only person present besides the Ferik and Vali Pashas, and the prisoner and his escort, when the occurrence took place, but I am perfectly convinced that the Ferik used the words as reported. The Alai Bey told my Dragoman, when he was interrogating the Headman when I sent him to make inquiries on Saturday, that the story was true, that the Ferik had so spoken, therefore no doubt the prisoner's escort had reported the matter.

On Tuesday morning, the 28th, the Headman came to me, and said that after my interview with the Pashas on Saturday, Samih Pasha had sent for him, and questioned him, and made him swear on the Gospels to the truth of the statement he made with regard to the words used by the Ferik Pasha, and had then ordered him to be released.

Later in the same day I went to the Vali Pasha, and found Samih Pasha and the Ferik Pasha with him. I said that I had come to him on Saturday about a very serious matter, and he had promised me satisfaction; that this was the third day from that time, and I had heard nothing from him. The Vali replied that he had offered me the information I required by the Mouavin. I said that, when I came personally and officially to ask for satisfaction for improper language used by an official such as the Ferik Pasha, a communication from the Mouavin to my Dragoman, offering information about the affair of the villager, was no proper reply. The Vali then said that if I pleased he would write me an explanation of the affair. I said I would enter into no argument on the question; that I had demanded satisfaction, and I only required an answer, yes or no, whether such satisfaction would be forthcoming. I was then asked what satisfaction I would be content with. I replied that I should be satisfied if the Ferik Pasha would say that he had used words he should not (inadvertently, or in anger, or in haste); that he regretted it and apologised. I was asked then if I obtained that whether I would not ask for further satisfaction; I said I would not. Then an attempt was made to persuade me that the matter was not so serious as I considered it, that there had been a misunderstanding. I replied that I did consider the matter very serious, that I should enter into no argument about it, and again asked whether the apology would be forthcoming, and said that, if not, I should leave the matter in the hands of the Ambassador and my Government. Samih Pasha then said that it would be a great pity if the matter could not be arranged here, and asked how long I would give to see whether an arrangement could be come to. I replied that I should be very glad if the matter could be arranged here; that as the mail would go on Saturday, I should be very pleased if the matter could be settled before that, but if it were not I should then consider that it had passed out of my hands.

Yesterday the Vali Pasha sent the Mouavin to me to say that he was very sorry that I was angry about the affair of the Ferik Pasha, that he had taken a deposition from the latter to the effect that what he had said was meant as a warning to the villager, that the words used were to this effect: "If you continue to act as you have done soldiers may come, and in their anger do grievous harm to your village, and then what will be the use of your coming and complaining to the Government and the Consuls," and that he (the Vali) hoped that I should be satisfied with this explanation. I replied that I had demanded an apology for the words used, and that I could not take it upon myself to be content with less; but that if the Vali would send me the deposition made by the Ferik Pasha in writing, I would send it to you with my report of the case; that if you considered it satisfactory I should be content to abide by your decision, and that if you did not you would take what further steps appeared to you desirable. I added that I was very sorry such unpleasantness had arisen, but that I had felt it my duty to act as I had done, without any personal feelings of hostility. I required the deposition in writing, because there has been a persistent endeavour on the part of the Pashas to avoid any acknowledgment of the Ferik having been to blame, or giving an apology, and in default of this I thought it right to require them to commit to writing their version of the story.

I have not received this deposition to-day, therefore I leave the matter as it stands in your hands. I need hardly say I shall be quite satisfied with any decision you may come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 145.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 2. Commercial.)

Van, November 14, 1879.

Sir,

I RECEIVED two days ago a paper from the merchants of Van complaining that their telegrams continually go wrong, and also that their letters are opened, both those sent and those received by them, and that sometimes portions are abstracted or lost.

They believe that this is done by order of the authorities, and they say that all telegrams are submitted by the telegraph clerk to the Vali before being sent, and he suppresses those he does not approve of.

My own telegrams in cypher have been so persistently rendered unintelligible, that I have had suspicions of their having been altered purposely.

It would be a great boon for the community if steps could be taken to ensure greater certainty in postal and telegraphic communication, and I need not say that it would be most desirable that cypher telegrams should be transmitted intelligibly. As it is I am unable to use the telegraph as much as I should desire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 146.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)

Kaisarieh, November 15, 1879.

Sir,

IN the accompanying despatch No. 11 I have reported against certain members of the Local Government and other influential inhabitants of Kaisarieh.

2. In doing so I have purposely withheld my authority for the statements made, as unless the Porte will take radical measures to reform the Government of Kaisarieh and of the Angora Vilayet, to give names would needlessly expose residents to persecution.

I have no means of obtaining access to public documents, but I have every reason to believe the facts true, and that if a capable and honest Governor or Commissioner were to investigate them they would be borne out by the records of Government either here or at Angora.

3. Hady Pasha, the Mutessarif of Kaisarieh, who, on my arrival, showed a decided disinclination to speak on the affairs of his Government, has lately become more communicative. But his conduct, judging by results, does not change; affairs are in a deplorable condition, and there is little chance of improvement under his administration.

The Cadi, of whom report spoke as honest and painstaking, I find to be a weak and dilatory Judge, if not taking bribes himself conniving at corruption in others.

4. Kaisarieh is essentially a money-making place, and public opinion is in favour of any Government which in return for taxes will give security of life and property. The Porte does neither. The present call for £ T. 15,000 has stirred up the ill-feeling against the Porte, and England comes in for a share of the unpopularity.

5. The people, both Moslem and Christian, believe that any Government would be preferable to the existing, and, till lately, the coming of the Russians was looked upon as only a matter of time. The Anglo-Turkish Convention has knocked that on the head, and public opinion now regards England rather as a dog in the manger having stopped Russia helping Anatolia and yet doing nothing herself.

6. Kaisarieh will always be a centre of intrigue, but there is no doubt but that the existing ill-will towards England is due to the non-fulfilment of the reforms which were so eagerly expected after the publication of the Convention of 1878.

7. The pressing reforms are not complicated laws nor a host of new officials. It is no good summoning evil-doers to Angora and Constantinople to let them return unpunished in a few months to the provinces.

The urgent need is for honest and capable Valis, Mutessarifs, and Cadis.

For the present it is good men with powers who are wanted to restore and pave the way for the reforms which advancing civilization will later on render necessary

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY COOPER.

No. 147.

Vice-Consul Gilbertson to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 4.)

Brussa, November 21, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to an act of kidnapping which occurred on the 23rd October last, at Kirmastly-Cassaba, about twelve hours from Brussa.

On the 25th October Telerkes Ibram, of Kirmastly-Cassaba, came and petitioned me to help him to recover his wife and two daughters (Eyashie, Coweo, and Cockquano, ages 30, 9, and 7, respectively) who were kidnapped by two brothers, Jembollit and Mahmout Beys, Circassians, from the village of Dulljé, situated in the Caza of Bollos, and appertaining to the Vilayet of Castamboul.

I immediately informed his Highness Achmet Vefyk Pasha what had occurred, and requested him to have Jembollit and Mahmout arrested, and that measures ought to be taken for the recovery of the said woman and her daughters.

His Highness immediately issued orders for the arrest of the said Beys, who, however, succeeded in evading the police and carrying their human booty to their native village of Dulljé, thereby escaping beyond the limits of his Highness' Administration.

His Highness, upon finding Ibram's statement true, and upon being informed of their escape, wrote to Constantinople denoting what had passed, and requested the immediate apprehension of the Beys, Jembollit and Mahmout, also that they should be forwarded here to undergo their trial; his Highness in the same note requesting the recovery of Eyashie and her daughters and their transmission to Brussa.

His Highness' note was referred to his Excellency Achmet Djevdhet Pasha, who gave to the poor, miserable Ibram a note to the Vali of Castamboul (Galip Pasha) requesting him to inquire into the case, and that only for his wife, not mentioning his daughters.

I herewith transmit Achmet Djevdhet Pasha's note in original for your Excellency's perusal, which I hope your Excellency will kindly return.

On the 17th instant Ibram returned to Brussa, and begged of me to help him, stating that for two reasons he would not go to Castamboul, Bollos, and back; (1) he had not a farthing for the expenses, and (2) that if he undertook the journey, he and all his family would be butchered by his race, who are in large numbers at Bollos and Dulljé; also that all the local authorities at Bollos are Circassians, and for the above reasons implored me not to send him until I had reported his case to your Excellency and received your decision thereon, to which he will thankfully submit.

I must also inform your Excellency that I called upon his Highness on the 19th instant, showed him Achmet Djevdhet Pasha's note, and related to him what Ibram had told me. His Highness said he was of the same opinion, and unless the poor man was supported, he would never see his wife and children again.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. GILBERTSON.

No. 148.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 59.)

Angora, November 22, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58, dated 8th November, I beg to inform you that the official proceedings regarding the internal loan are now quite public. The Governor-General, Khourshood Pasha, finding a strong opposition to every measure he proposed, summoned a General Council of all the Notables of the province. His Excellency has had private interviews with these individually, and the Council (incorporated with the Administrative Council) has held three sittings during the past week, where the question has been debated with much acrimony.

The decision arrived at was to collect the verghi (direct taxes) for year 1296 (13th March, 1880, to 13th March, 1881) now, instead of subsequent to March 1880, and the Notables offered to guarantee the Local Government that were this suggestion entertained, a sum of £ T. 40,000, or 36,000*l.*, would be realized. This vote, approved by the Vali, was referred to the Porte, but I learn as I write that the proposal has been indignantly rejected by the Porte, and the Vali has been censured officially for the "disloyal" state of feeling in his vilayet shown by the suggestion of such means.

At the same time, categoric instructions are given him to make arrangements for collecting what is called "bakia" (arrears), which consist of two classes: (1) sums owing by various officials to Government, such as overdrafts, advances made that have not been repaid, and sums misappropriated which they have been ordered to repay, but which they have failed to do, either from want of will or want of effects; (2) arrears of taxes owing by the population.

These two classes show amounts of £ T. 28,000 and £ T. 36,000 respectively, at the credit of Government on account, but the amounts are not really worth £ T. 5,000 each, as it is practically impossible to collect them, at least under the present system, as a few detailed examples will show.

My neighbour, Kanie Bey, owes £ T. 5,380 to the Government, the funds of various mosques, schools, and trusts for road-making, of which he possessed himself, in plain English, embezzled, whilst Deputy Treasurer fifteen years ago, and which he invested in farms, vineyards, and flocks of goats, of which he has a large number. Under three "reforming" Pashas he has been called to account, but always takes alarmingly ill whilst proceedings are pending, and can be seen by no one but the doctor, nor does he recover till the Vali has been changed, and the inquiry is abandoned, when he reappears as well and lively as ever, and describes with jocose gravity to his friends the terrible sufferings he has had to endure.

Cadi Oglou Ibrahim is a hanger-on at the Serail without any appointment, but always seems more busily occupied than regular officials. Speculated in tithes eight years ago which did not realize, and unable to pay the sums due, and his guarantors having become bankrupt, there is a debt in Government books against him of £ T. 2,830. This disqualifies him for regular employment, but he is notoriously the agent for Vali Tefterdar and Cadi in supplying them with that indirect revenue which has to serve them instead of their official income.

Were honest Government and European inspection introduced, such persons would be the first to be brought to book to receive the just reward of their deeds, but under the present system it seems utterly hopeless.

As regards the arrears of taxes due by the population, I have taken the trouble to compare the local village or district records with many of the accounts as kept at the capital of the vilayet, and find large discrepancies in favour of the poor villagers. They hold receipts, sometimes formal sometimes evidently drawn with fraudulent intent, given by previous Kaïmakams and Treasurers, which amounts are not noted in the provincial ledgers. One asks naturally, where are those officials now? No one can tell. Dismissed, absconded, in Constantinople awaiting fresh appointment, such are the replies received.

This extreme pressure from Constantinople for direct remittance to the capital have a seriously damaging effect on the commerce of the province just at the time when gradually recovering from a three years' depression, this reaction being the result of improved English demand.

Your Excellency will be no doubt aware of the "hevalle" system bonds drawn by the Exchequer in the provincial Treasuries, and payable to local agents. Many of these "hevalle," bought in the open market at from 40 to 80 per cent. discount, are purely speculative, and persons who traffic in them are not much to be pitied if they not realize, but many of them are genuine, and represent value received in the shape of British merchandize delivered to the various Turkish Departments of War, Marine, Ports, Telegraphs, &c. The importers, unable to obtain their money from the Exchequer, are constrained to accept these drafts on the provinces, and they are sent to Angora and elsewhere for collection. Although much delay and many abuses occur with this collection, hitherto these drafts have been honoured and paid sooner or later; but now these are also dishonoured, and strict orders have been received not to pay a farthing of these, but remit all receipts of every kind to the capital.

These drafts for the current year amount to no less a sum than 125,000*l.*, and had they been allowed the provincial and district Treasuries could have provided for and paid them. As payments were received these monies could have been turned into produce—a double benefit for the people and province, and of great value in a country where no banks exist as yet, nor any other reliable mode of making remittance to Europe.

These drafts are almost entirely in the hands of English subjects for collection, or entrusted to native agents of British merchants for that purpose, and it excites much comment amongst all classes that one indirect result of applying pressure to the Porte has been a heavy loss to British subjects resident in Turkey, and a great restriction placed upon British commerce, while the desired reforms seem more completely ignored than ever.

The zaptieh force is as badly disciplined and as insufficient as it has been for the last eight years, and during these days has become particularly exacting on the plea that some ready money must be given them for expenses during the approaching "Caurban Bairam." The new legal officials, Inspectors and Procureurs, have made themselves odious by the shameless and greedy way in which they cater for bribes, and the Inspector-General, Ahmed Bey, is so notorious in this respect, that I am making every exertion to have a formal complaint lodged, and a Commission appointed to inquire into his proceedings. A conviction having been obtained against the Inspector of the Broussa vilayet encourages me to persevere in the hope of securing a similar result, and so expose the utter futility of such appointments unless intrusted to intelligent and honest Europeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL

No. 149.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

(No. 3. Political.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, November 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I received yesterday from the Ambassador at Constantinople a telegram as follows:—

"Referring to Inclosure 4 in Major Trotter's No. 111, inform me whether the Ferik Pasha at Van has apologized to Captain Clayton?"

Having received a few minutes prior to the arrival of this telegram the despatches from Captain Clayton, dated the 7th November, I was enabled to reply—

"The Ferik Pasha has not apologized to Captain Clayton. Post from Van has arrived to-day. No allusion is made to the affair, which Captain Clayton considers to have passed out of his hands.

"See copy of his No. 17, forwarded to you last Saturday."

The procès against the Keghi Beys have made very little progress since you left. Yesterday the two chief representatives of the people of that district informed me that they intended to send a telegram to the British Ambassador at Constantinople. They handed me a copy of the telegram, which I have the honour to inclose. The Baiboort cases, like those of Keghi, have advanced but little.

From information I received yesterday I understand that the Kaïmakam of Keghi has been sent for to Erzeroum.

It appears that two of his officials have been collecting taxes in money, and shewing in their accounts receipts for caïmé. In this matter the Kaïmakam is said to be implicated, but nothing is as yet proved against him. While absent from his post a certain Suleiman Effendi from Terjan is to act as Kaïmakam. This man is reported to me as being illiterate, as well as a reputed bad character; he is also a Kaïmakamlik hunter, and I greatly fear that a plot is on foot to displace the Kaïmakam, who was only confirmed in his appointment a few days after you left.

This morning I saw the Vali and Hussein Effendi, one of the Deputies left behind by the Commissioners. They confirmed the report that Mehemet Ali, the Kaïmakam of Keghi, had been summoned to answer to certain charges of a financial nature. I intimated to the Vali how much I should regret the dismissal from office of a man who had already earned a name for uprightness and just-dealing amongst both Christians and Moslems.

The Vali informed me that, not having received any answer to his telegram to the Minister of Finance, referred to in my despatch No. 2, Political, he had taken upon himself the responsibility, and had ordered the Mutessarif of Bayazid to sell wheat to those who could buy, and give to those who could not so afford. He has also written to the Governor-General of Van to inform him of the steps he has taken.

With regard to the oppressive order for the collection of taxes in the Sandjak of Bayazid, mentioned by me in the despatch already referred to, the Vali had not received as yet any answer from the Mutessarif.

I forward you an extract from a letter received yesterday by Mr. Cole from Karpoot, bearing upon the state of the Dersim district, and have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 149.

Telegram forwarded to the British Ambassador by Keghi Representatives.

Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de l'Angleterre à Constantinople.

NOUS, soussignés délégués du peuple oppressé du Canton Keghi, errant ici vainement depuis six mois; quelques-uns d'entre nous meurent déjà de misère, quelques autres étant dispersés retournèrent en leur patrie; leurs Excellences les Commissaires partirent d'ici sans nous faire justice, nous aussi partirons ; la vengence de nos ennemis sera désormais plus sévère que jamais contre nous et nos familles; il ne nous reste aucun moyen que de recourir à la miséricorde de votre Excellence pour demander sa haute protection.

Très-humbles serviteurs,
(Signé) OHANNES TERZIAN.
KHATCHIG AMRIGUIAN.
EUMER.

Erzéroum le $\frac{8}{20}$ Novembre, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 149.

Letter from Mr. Barnum, American Missionary at Karpoot, to Mr. Cole, American Missionary at Erzeroum.

(Extract.)

MAJOR TROTTER has asked for information in regard to the Dersim region. Fazli Pasha, who has been in charge there for the last five months, is now here. He says that Yusuf Pasha, the Commissioner, has asked him for a brochure, and he is now preparing one to go by the next post. His plan does not differ widely from that of Hakki Pasha, of whom I wrote to Major Trotter in the summer, that is, to try to civilize and tame them, instead of pressing them with fire and sword. He would have the district established into a Mutessariflik, with a military officer as a Mutessarif. He would have some barracks built, and on some of the outposts where most thieving is done, a few guard-houses. The most of those who have gone to reform Dersim have gone to gather up mules, &c., for themselves, and often a little. Soldiers have been withdrawn, and the Kurds left to their own will.

Fazli Pasha is an educated and intelligent man, and he has the reputation of being honest and of having gained the confidence of the Kurd somewhat. He would, I think, make a good Governor for the region, and so, I think, Hakki Pasha would. The first and most important thing is to gain the confidence of the Kurds, and this would require an honest man; one who would show the Kurds that he was only trying to benefit them, instead of enriching himself. Hakki Pasha has made the Kurds his study, especially the Hakkiari Kurds. Fazli Pasha has more executive power, I judge, than Hakki; but Hakki, it seems to me, takes broader views, and would have more heart in the service.

No. 150.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 4. Political.)

Jerusalem, November 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting certain administrative improvements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Consul Moore to Sir A. H. Layard.

Jerusalem, November 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Raouf Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem, sharing the general dissatisfaction with the conduct of the local Medjlisses, has dismissed the entire body of the members composing them, Christians and Mussulmans, and used his influence with the Electoral Committees to secure the election of persons in whom he reposes greater confidence.

The discharged Mahommedan members belong to the two most influential families of this city, and as the Pasha has, moreover, turned his attention to the investigation of their titles to certain Miri lands held by them, they are loud in their complaints against him at Constantinople.

These Effendis recently called upon me to complain of the proceedings of Raouf Pasha. I told them that the reform of the Medjlisses was an imperative necessity, that the time had come for all provincial Governors to occupy themselves seriously with the introduction of ameliorations in the various branches of the Administration, and that I hoped that, if, as I doubted not, they had any desire for the good government and prosperity of their country, they would not hinder, but aid the authorities in their efforts to attain that end. To those propositions they could not but assent, but said the Pasha was not acting from disinterested motives.

I have no doubt that your Excellency's late visit to Jerusalem had a large share in determining and encouraging Raouf Pasha to take the action he has done in a matter of so much importance as the purification of the Tribunals.

A Public Prosecutor and a Financial Inspector have been appointed to Jerusalem—both Turks. These are both good and useful measures if the duties attaching to them are honestly and competently discharged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 151.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 19. Political.)

Damascus, November 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the termination and final settlement of the recent troubles in the Hauran.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 1 in No. 151.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, November 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the termination and final settlement of the recent troubles in the Hauran.

The first demands of the Government upon the Druses having been held to have been acceded to by the surrender of four persons implicated in the conflict of Busr-el-Hariry, and by the arrival here of two notables of the Jebel Druse to express submission and regret, the troops have been withdrawn, the regulars to their barracks and the Redifs to their homes.

The discussion relative to the fresh conditions, or "propositions on the basis of reciprocity," has resulted in the appointment of Said Bey Talhûk as Kaïmakam of the Jebel Druse, dependent directly upon Damascus without reference to the Mutessarif of the Hauran, with a monthly salary of 3,000 piastres, being double that formerly paid to the Turkish Kaïmakam.

The demands of the Government for £T. 10,000 for arrears of taxation on account of military expenses incurred having been met by pleadings of poverty, of want of powers to

treat or to impose, and by invoking the Imperial Edict annulling such arrears up to 1289, Said Bey has been instructed generally to direct his attention to the encashment of arrears, the matter being thus left in his hands to do the best he can. The question of constructing forts or blockhouses for permanent military occupation, as well as the making a road through the Lejah, have been waived. The matter of additional taxation has been also deferred.

Said Bey has been instructed to form a gendarmerie in the mountain, to which end fifteen gendarmes have been furnished to him to serve as the nucleus for such local formation. An Administrative Medjliss, under the Presidency of the Kaïmakam, and a Court of First Instance under a Cadi (formerly employed in the Lebanon), are also to be established in accordance with regulation; as also the usual Treasury and Land-tax officials, the members of the Courts to be elected by the people. A Mixed Commission is to be appointed to discuss and settle all claims to certain villages in the adjacent plain alleged to have been appropriated in years past by the Druses to the injury of the fisc, of private individuals, and to the detriment of the public peace. Fleers from justice in the future to the Jebel Druse are to be immediately arrested and sent to Damascus and the Arab tribes, to be kept under proper subjection, and their marauding forays prevented; the plunder of certain Moslem villages accruing through recent events to be restored, and the plunderers punished.

Road and schools to be opened by proper pressure put upon the people.

The rivalry for power, if nothing else, among the Druse Chiefs, prevented the nomination of any one of them as Kaïmakam, and the appointment of Said Bey as Lebanon Druse, of good character and influence among this people, and one well acquainted with the details of the present happy system of government in Mount Lebanon, is most favourably looked upon by the Druse community, and may be considered as offering the best [possible] guarantee for the success of the attempt thus made for the first time to establish in the Jebel Druse the substance rather than the shadow of Imperial authority.

By the new system the feudal powers of the Chiefs will, nominally, at least, and practically to a great extent, come to an end. While the large emoluments of office of the heads of the principal families formerly, and now probably again under the new régime, Mudirs of their respective districts, will be reduced to their simple pay of Mudir, by the withdrawal of the large subsidy hitherto paid to them under the head of wages of police. Thus the annual revenue of the Jebel Druse is estimated at 288,000 piastres, out of which the pay and police subsidies of the four Mudirs amounted to 188,000 piastres; and it is asserted, and I believe with some truth, that, while the pay and subsidies were regularly encashed from the Treasuries of Damascus and the Hauran, the amount of taxation due by the mountain, although duly levied upon the people, was very far from partaking of the same regularity as regards payment to the Imperial Treasury, resulting in alleged arrears of £T. 26,000, which the Government have sought on the present occasion to compromise for, with little success, by a demand for £T. 10,000.

Said Bey's task will doubtless be a difficult one without encouragement and support. He at first declined the post, but asking my advice, I strongly advised his acceptance of it, believing it to be the best solution offering in the joint interests of the Government and the Druses.

Both Said Bey and the Druse notables have informed me that the Druses yielded to the demands of the Government in the manner they did solely through the confidence placed by them in my friendly intervention, considering that they had been most unfairly treated by the authorities in menacing them about a paltry affair with a large military force, and in stirring up against them the Hauran peasantry, as well as the marauding Arabs of the vicinity, whose previous misdeeds were fathered upon them. I believe, however, that both the authorities and the Druses were well content to extricate themselves in the manner set forth from the difficult position in which they found themselves placed, and I have duly impressed upon the latter the necessity of supporting Said Bey and the new régime about to be introduced.

Said Bey left to day for his post, and, in taking leave of me, appeared sanguine as to his ultimate success, especially as time will be given to him to carry out the new reforms.

I venture to append, in case your Excellency may deem it worthy of perusal, a memorandum, showing what I believe to have been the origin, progress, and termination of the recent troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 151.

Memorandum on the recent troubles in the Hauran.

ABOUT two years ago a Moslem of the Jowf, northern Arabia, eloped with a Moslem girl of Busr-el-Hariry, a village on the south-west edge of the Lejah, and succeeded in evading his pursuers by means of the Druses of Dweiry, a neighbouring Druse village. This matter gave rise to constant quarrels between the Moslem and Druse villagers, and resulted some time ago in the loss of an eye by a Moslem, and in the demand for the price of a life, which the Druses refused to pay, offering only the value of an eye. This refusal increased the bad feeling existing, when in October last a Druse called on business at the tent of a Lejah Arab who was entertaining marriage guests of Busr-el-Hariry. He was bitterly reproached by the Moslems for the loss of the eye, when he withdrew and fled, the Moslems pursuing and firing at him. His horse was killed but he escaped, and returned with a number of his friends, and a fight of many hours ensued between Druse and Moslem, resulting in eight or ten Moslems being killed and three Druses, besides wounded.

The Moslems complained to Damascus, when troops were sent to the spot to interpose between the rival parties, and a demand was made to give up the Druses concerned for trial. The Druse Chiefs, seeing that the Government had permitted to be stirred up against them the whole of the Hauran peasantry besides many tribes of Bedouins, besides sending large bodies of troops, refused to comply, believing that something more was intended than the quelling of a small local feud, and accordingly assembled their fighting men, to the number of about 7,000, in the south-west of the Lejah and at the north-west foot of the Jebel Druse.

A few days after the arrival of the troops, and while negotiations were still pending, the Druses of Dweiry, who had retired to Nejran, inside the Lejah, returned for the purpose of procuring some straw, and were attacked by some Moslems and Bedouins who had been allowed to pass by the camp and enter the village for the purpose of plunder. A fight occurred, resulting in the defeat of the Moslems and Bedouins, when the Government troops came up, ostensibly to separate the contending parties, and, by accident or design, fired on the Druses, and a battle began between troops and Druses, the number being then about 300 on either side. The Druses gave way before the superior fire of the troops, and withdrew into the adjoining Lejah towards Nejran, sending to their main body, three hours off, for reinforcements, which arrived, mounted, about noon to the number of about 5,000.

The Turkish Commander, Djemil Pasha, seeing them approach, ordered up two more companies and withdrew to the neighbouring plain, drawing thither the Druses.

After retreating an hour the troops faced about and opened a destructive fire with their rifles upon the Druses, who, being armed only with common guns, were taken at a disadvantage, and accordingly retreated to the Lejah, dismounted and renewed the fight among the rocks, being followed by the troops. Towards sunset the Turks drew off and threw up intrenchments in the plain close by, which were repeatedly assailed by the Druses until long past nightfall.

During the night the Turks withdrew to their camp, and their intrenchments were occupied at daybreak by the Druses, who found provisions and ammunitions left behind.

Next day the Turkish Commander sent a conciliatory letter to the Druses, stating he did not wish to renew the fight, which had arisen through a misunderstanding, calling at the same time for reinforcements from Damascus, and dispatching a Druse Chief who had been in the camp all the time to the Druses to impress upon them the serious aspect of their position.

Four days afterwards arrived a Druse delegate from Lebanon, Said Bey Talhûk, to try and make peace, and the result was that the accused Druses (who were alleged to have survived) were surrendered, and with two of the principal men came to Damascus.

After some negotiations certain conditions were agreed to for the better government of the Druse mountain, and the matter thus ended, the troops being withdrawn.

Damascus, November 22, 1879.

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1469.)
Foreign Office, December 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1037, inclosing a copy of the *note verbale* addressed by you to the Porte on the 23rd ultimo upon the state of affairs in

Armenia, and I have to state to you in reply that the note in question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, November 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 15th ultimo, inclosing an extract from the "Turquie" of the 16th September, announcing that the Imperial sanction had been given to the demand of the Christian population of Zeitoun to serve in the Imperial army.

Orders were received here some time ago to prepare the conscription lists, &c., but it is only within the last few days that any measures have been taken to give effect to the Imperial Iradé.

I understand that two military officers were sent to Zeitoun last week to execute the order. I believe the Zeitounli desire to be formed into a distinct corps by themselves, and as probably there may be objections to this on the part of the Government, who can scarcely be expected to create such a precedent, or to favour a project so opposed to its traditional policy, and which would in all probability ultimately cause it great embarrassment, I fear, before the project is actually put into execution, it will require much time and trouble to reconcile the differences which I anticipate will arise as to the formation of a regiment composed of Christians and under the command of Mussulman officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1494.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 16, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram, No. 783 of the 14th instant, reporting Baker Pasha's desire that he should be accompanied on his tour of inspection in Asia Minor by Lieutenant Chermside. I quite approve of this proposal, if Colonel Wilson concurs in it. I have, however, requested your Excellency to take care that Mr. Chermside should not be pressed to expose himself to any serious risk after his recent dangerous illness.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1498.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 18, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1046 of the 29th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van as to the distressed condition of the Christian inhabitants of Murduz, Shaddakh and Gevver.

I am glad to learn that your Excellency has taken steps to call the attention of the Porte to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1499.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 18, 1879.*

I FIND as an inclosure in your Excellency's despatch No. 1061, of the 2nd instant, a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gilbertson (No. 4 of the 21st ultimo), reporting on the case of a man named Ibram whose wife and two daughters had been kidnapped by Circassians of the province of Castamboul.

I trust that you will not lose sight of this case, which is deserving of much sympathy. It would be desirable that Colonel Wilson should take any steps which may be in his power, supported by your Excellency, to obtain the restitution to the man of his family.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 1068. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, December 5, 1879.*

MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA has given me, confidentially, a translation of the proposal that he has submitted to the Council of Ministers for reforms to be carried out by the Ministry of the Interior, over which he now presides. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it. Your Lordship will find that it is an amplification of the first part of the scheme for general reforms to be introduced into the Empire, which he submitted to me some time ago, and a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 981 of the 12th November last. His Highness' leading idea is the reduction in size of the present vilayets, and a return to the ancient system of "eyalets," which he thinks will be the first step towards decentralization. He believes that a good deal of the present disorder and corruption in the administration of the provinces arises from the too great extent of the vilayets, and from the appointment from Constantinople of Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, &c., over whom the Governor-General can exercise little authority or control.

I have pointed out to his Highness that the reform relating to the gendarmerie, the fourth in his scheme, by which it is provided that no foreigner shall be employed in that corps, except provisionally as "Inspector-Instructors," is at variance with the understanding come to between Her Majesty's Government and the Porte, and is one which is not in the real interest of Turkey herself.

Mahmoud Nedim Pasha informs me that he has reason to believe that the Council of Ministers will accept his programme and will recommend it to the approval of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Programme of Reforms by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

(Traduction.)

EN présence de l'extension reconnue nécessaire des attributions du Ministère de l'Intérieur, et pénétré des devoirs qui se rattachent aux sentiments de fidélité et de dévouement que je suis fier de professer à l'égard de notre auguste Souverain et bienfaiteur, en présence aussi de la gravité de la crise morale et matérielle qui a envahi l'Empire Ottoman, je crois devoir faire ici l'exposé et l'énumération de celles des réformes dont je considère l'exécution comme la plus urgente pour le moment et qui rentrent dans les prérogatives du même Département.

Mais avant d'entrer dans cette énumération je juge opportun de mentionner certains points de la triste situation qui nous entoure.

L'Empire voit en effet se perpétuer dans son sein une foule d'actes irréguliers et d'abus qui, en contradiction flagrante avec les sentiments de justice et la volonté de

Sa Majesté Impériale, se sont propagés depuis les centres jusqu'aux confins du pays et se trouvent être corroborés par les réclamations, les griefs, et les communications qui sont adressés périodiquement à la Sublime Porte et y existent. Nous avons de même des Traités et des Conventions spéciales qui stipulent l'obligation de mettre à exécution des réformes; et il est évident que les abus précités seraient de nature à provoquer des propositions officielles demandant l'application de ces réformes. Cette assertion n'est point dénuée d'importance, car les communications et représentations étrangères faites dans le passé comme dans le présent pour cet objet, y viennent à l'appui. Dès lors, au lieu de se voir imposer forcément l'exécution des clauses des Conventions qui précèdent au préjudice de nos droits et de notre indépendance, ne serait-il pas mieux et plus équitable de déterminer nous-mêmes spontanément ce qu'il y aurait à faire et d'en entreprendre l'exécution?

A toute époque de même que de nos jours l'obligation d'exercer une justice égale pour tous a toujours été le point capital et essentiel des réformes légitimes à opérer. Ceci est d'un ordre légal et primordial, et un tel état de choses amène nécessairement la confiance et la sécurité publique en écartant toute entrave, toute charge onéreuse.

Du moment que le Maître Suprême de l'univers, dont l'adoration ne s'applique point de préférence à telle ou telle race privilégiée, a donné dans le Coran l'égalité devant la justice de toutes ses créatures; du moment aussi que la mission du Prophète, notre Seigneur, est venue corroborer ces prescriptions diverses, dès lors, nul ne saurait douter que notre bien-aimé Khalife et Souverain, mû par ses intentions généreuses et sa sollicitude bien connue pour ses sujets, ne consacre de fait ses nobles efforts à la réalisation de cet ordre légal et sacré.

Nous devons donc dans ma pensée et sans perdre une minute confirmer cette prescription par les actes et les faits; obligés d'y obéir ne la laissons plus dans le domaine des paroles, et unissons-nous pour la réaliser immédiatement et nous gagner ainsi la confiance générale.

J'aborde maintenant l'énumération des réformes.

1. L'administration des provinces doit être améliorée. On voit et on entend de diverses parts le mécontentement des populations que provoquent les abus et qui donne naissance à des aspirations à l'autonomie ou à la protection étrangère. Pour écarter ces velléités aussi bien que pour faciliter l'expédition des affaires des habitants qui sont forcés de recourir au siége du Gouvernement de la province déjà si vaste, chaque division territoriale devra être diminuée en étendue et le partage se fera d'une manière conforme à l'importance et à la situation locales, en tenant compte de la position géographique et des économies à opérer suivant la nouvelle étendue. On établira le système de décentralisation sous le rapport de certains travaux locaux d'utilité publique, et on devra définir la question des récompenses ou des responsabilités suivant la nature des actes administratifs.

2. Dans le but d'organiser la nouvelle division territoriale, d'établir les règlements, et d'exercer l'inspection de la dite organisation, il sera institué une Haute Commission provisoire, sous le nom de "Commission des Réformes Intérieures." Composée de Vizirs et de fonctionnaires non-Musulmans, elle aura à réviser ou compléter les lois et règlements existants concernant l'administration intérieure, suivant le nouveau mode de division territoriale; à prononcer sur les réclamations relatives à la construction de routes et chaussées; à dresser les projets et indiquer les mesures à prendre pour faciliter et exécuter rapidement tout ce qu'on aurait en vue pour une bonne administration; à soumettre à la sanction Impériale tout ce qui vient d'être mentionné, [aussi bien?] que les instructions qui doivent être remises aux Valis et autres fonctionnaires et rédigées conformément au nouvel état de choses et aux nouveaux règlements devant être mis en vigueur; à faire publier partout que les populations sont autorisées à recourir au dit Conseil pour leurs observations ou leurs griefs concernant les affaires intérieures. Considérant enfin que l'inspection de l'état des populations ainsi que l'exécution des réformes, seront dévolues à la susdite Commission Exécutive, jusqu'à ce que la nouvelle organisation soit définitivement constituée, la Commission aura, en conséquence, la faculté de s'attacher des Inspecteurs, qui seront envoyés en tournée dans les provinces. De même, aussitôt que la division territoriale précitée aura été établie, les États-Majors des armées Impériales seront chargés de dresser les cartes des nouveaux districts.

3. Simultanément avec l'établissement de la nouvelle division des vilayets, d'après le mode déjà indiqué, on procédera à la nomination d'Administrateurs non-Musulmans, suivant la proportion des habitants et l'opportunité de la situation et du lieu.

4. Les gendarmes et leurs officiers en nombre voulu seront choisis parmi les habitants, sujets Ottomans. Aucun étranger ne pourra faire partie du corps de la gendarmerie. Toutefois un certain nombre d'Inspecteurs-Instructeurs, sujets étrangers, seront employés dans ce même corps, à titre provisoire, et seulement dans les centres qui seront désignés pour cet objet.

5. La clémence souveraine ne pouvant tolérer que les fonctionnaires mis en non-activité par suite de la diminution des vilayets soient privés de ressources, il leur sera, en conséquence, alloué une pension de retraite suffisante sur le chapitre y relatif du Budget, lequel chapitre devra naturellement augmenter à la suite des susdites mesures d'économie projetées.

6. L'Ecole Civile ("mulkyé") déjà établie, recevra un plus grand développement sous les auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale afin de pouvoir fournir le nombre nécessaire de fonctionnaires et employés d'Administration. Par ce moyen on gagnera de bons fonctionnaires pour l'avenir, et d'un autre côté on pourra dès à présent choisir parmi ceux déjà employés dans les divers départements et bureaux les personnes les plus capables pour être envoyées en province.

7. Dans le but de mettre, conformément à la justice et à l'équité souveraines, un terme aux plaintes des populations relativement au mode de perception en vigueur de l'impôt ("virgi") et des autres redevances, et de préserver en même temps les deniers de l'Etat de tout préjudice, il faut confier le service de ce prélèvement aux Conseils des Anciens eux-mêmes des bourgs et communes, lesquels Conseils doivent à leur tour être réformés sous tous les rapports. En cas de refus de payer à temps ces impôts et de recours à l'autorité, alors seulement celle-ci devra intervenir.

8. Les mesures nécessaires à prendre pour l'augmentation des revenus, la réduction du personnel de l'Administration, et les économies dans les dépenses, offrent à l'heure qu'il est une importance capitale. La Commission Exécutive susnommée doit donc opérer graduellement la suppression des emplois inutiles, et les fonctionnaires ainsi révoqués doivent également jouir du bénéfice des dispositions de l'Article 5.

Telles sont pour le moment mes idées; et dans le cas où elles seront agréées par le Conseil des Ministres et revêtues de la haute sanction de Sa Majesté le Sultan, j'en demande la mise en application immédiate.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur,
(Signé) MAHMOUD NEDIM.

Constantinople, le $\frac{4}{16}$ *Novembre*, 1879.

No. 158.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1069.)

Constantinople, December 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an able leading article from the "Commercial Advertiser" ("Levant Herald") upon the policy and action of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the reforms to be introduced into the Turkish provinces in Asia, in answer to the attacks which the "Turdjimani Hakikat" continues to make upon England.

This latter newspaper, which, as I have stated to your Lordship, has the reputation of being the organ of the present Prime Minister, Saïd Pasha, has lately been publishing some very offensive articles against France. M. Fournier told me that he should call the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to them, without, however, asking that any punishment should be inflicted upon the newspaper.

These attacks upon England and France, the ancient allies and friends of Turkey, which have been allowed to appear with impunity in a newspaper generally believed to be "inspired" from the Palace, have given rise, not unnaturally, to a very general suspicion that certain members of the Ministry, including the Prime Minister, are acting in the interests of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 159.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1072.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 6, 1879.

I HAVE strongly urged upon the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the importance of entering into a Convention with Persia with a view to putting an end to the constant depredations of the Kurds on the Turco-Persian frontier, and to their habit of crossing from one country to the other in order to escape from the punishment to which their offences may have exposed them, and to elude pursuit on the part of the authorities.

I have informed Sawas Pasha that your Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran to give similar advice to the Persian Government, and I have communicated to him the substance of Mr. Thomson's despatch No. 244 of the 4th October last referring to this subject inclosed in your Lordship's despatch to me, No. 1372, of the 13th ultimo.

His Excellency states to me that he sees no difficulty in concluding such a Convention as I have suggested, and has promised me to give the matter immediate consideration.

I shall continue to press it upon his attention, as I am convinced that until an arrangement is entered into between the two countries, which will enable them to deal effectively with the Kurds, the frontier provinces will always be in a disturbed state, and the Christian populations will continue to be exposed to outrages and maltreatment from these barbarous tribes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 160.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1074.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an account of the recent occurrences in the Hauran which has been sent to me, indirectly, by Midhat Pasha. It is, of course, his Highness' own version of the events which nearly led to a serious conflict between the Turkish authorities and the Druses, and he omits to mention in it the share of Vice-Consul Jago in bringing about a satisfactory settlement of a quarrel which might have ended in much bloodshed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Memorandum by Midhat Pasha.

LE conflit qui a éclaté tout dernièrement dans le Hauran semble avoir absorbé l'attention publique. Les journaux ont tellement dénaturé l'origine et le caractère du soulèvement, et ont basé leurs commentaires sur les données tellement erronées qu'il serait opportun de faire un récit précis afin de faire luire la vérité autour de cette question. Pour la parfaite intelligence des choses il est indispensable, en premier lieu, de jeter un coup d'œil rétrospectif sur les Druzes résidant en Syrie.

Ne voulant pas toutefois m'y appesantir je l'esquisse d'une façon bien succincte :—

Les Druzes se divisent en trois parties : la première habite la partie sud du Liban, la seconde est établie entre Hasbeya et Bascheya, et la troisième dans le Hauran. Cette dernière à une population de 15,000 à 20,000.

La religion qu'ils professent est encore méconnue, quoiqu'ils prétendent être Musulmans, et l'on a bien de la peine à la comprendre, vu qu'ils sont très-mystérieux, et n'initient aucun étranger dans leur foi et leur croyance.

Les Druzes du Liban, bien qu'ils aient donné autrefois des embarras à l'autorité en provoquant des conflits, se trouvent maintenant complétement soumis, et payent

régulièrement les droits auxquels sont assujettis leurs compatriotes, les Maronites. Cette situation est due aux sages mesures prises par le Gouvernement Impérial et les Puissances, mesures qui arrêtèrent la propagation de l'insubordination à laquelle se livrent leurs coreligionnaires du Hauran. Il en est de même pour la seconde partie, qui est établie entre Hasbeya et Bascheya. Ceux-là faisant abstraction des troubles qu'ils ont un moment donné à l'autorité, tiennent maintenant une attitude peu sujette à des blâmes. Ils paient, comme ceux du Liban, les impôts, et obéissent aux ordres qui émanent du Gouvernement.

Quant aux Druzes du Hauran, ils habitent sur une montagne qui domine toute la plaine du Hauran, font la terreur des paisibles Musulmans Chrétiens et Bédouins, et sont quasi-indépendants ; leur insubordination date de longtemps. Il serait superflu d'énumérer les actes de méfaits et de déprédations auxquels ils se sont livrés jusqu'ici, et la triste célébrité qu'ils gagnèrent en donnant asile à tous les malfaiteurs. Qu'il me suffise seulement d'attirer l'attention sur ce qui précède ; c'est que les Druzes, pour avoir les coudées franches, et se livrer impunément au brigandage, ont toujours eu soin de se léguer à certaines tribus nomades du Hauran, ce qui naturellement les renforçait énormément, et les mettait à mesure de tenir dans ces conditions tête à l'autorité. Tout le monde les redoutait, surtout devant la conviction que le Gouvernement était impuissant de les soumettre. Témoins les campagnes entreprises contre Ibrahim et Kebrisli Pacha. Il est de notoriété publique que lors de la conquête de la Syrie par les Egyptiens le fils de Mehmet Ali, malgré tout son génie militaire et les grandes forces dont il disposait, dû subir un échec en essuyant de ramener par les armes ces Druzes à la soumission.

Plus tard Kibresli Pacha, que la leçon infligée à Ibrahim devait faire hésiter à entreprendre une campagne contre des rebelles, qui n'ont ni feu ni lieu, et n'ayant comme tactique que de harceler le Gouvernement, le fameux Kebrisli essaya la même expédition, mais il ne fut pas plus heureux que son prédécesseur. Ce qui hérissait de difficultés alors la conquête, ou du moins, la soumission des Druzes, c'était leur union avec toute la population Musulmane et Chrétienne du Hauran. Tant qu'ils ont fait cause commune ensemble il n'a été guère possible au Gouvernement d'avoir le dessus. Aujourd'hui la situation n'est plus la même, et le Gouvernement aurait plus d'un avantage sur les Druzes si toutefois il voulait profiter de l'occasion favorable qui se présente pour entreprendre une campagne contre eux, au but de les soumettre ; leur force ayant été fortement réduite à cause de leur mésintelligence et désaccord avec les Hauranais et les Bédouins, conséquemment les chances du Gouvernement ont été assurées et augmentées par suite du ralliement de ces derniers à sa cause. Les déprédations et méfaits que les Druzes exercent non-seulement aux dépens des villages avoisinants, mais aussi de tous les habitants du Hauran, étaient arrivées à leur apogée lors de la nomination de son Excellence Midhat Pacha en Syrie, et la situation était devenue intenable.

Dès son installation des milliers de pétitions lui furent adressées par les pauvres habitants du Hauran pour lui faire connaître leur pitoyable et déplorable situation ; leur position presque dépendante des Druzes, leur manque de sécurité complète, aussi bien pour leurs familles que pour leur propriété, et réclamant, enfin, aide et appui de la part du Gouvernement. Son Altesse ne voulant pas prêter foi à tous les on-dit, et juger, étudia et se rendit compte tout d'abord de la question en cherchant le remède qu'il y aurait lieu d'apporter et en évitant, bien entendu, dans ces circonstances aussi critiques pour le Gouvernement, des complications qui pourraient surgir en agissant trop précipitamment.

Elle se décida en conséquence de mander auprès de lui les principaux Chefs Druzes, et de les exhorter à mettre fin à leur déprédation en les engageant à prendre une voie légale pour vivre, leur faisant comprendre que le siècle actuel ne comportait plus que des populations sanguinaires et barbares vinsent troubler par leurs actes des habitants paisibles, qu'elle leur conseillait d'avoir aussi à rallier au Gouvernement leur promettant son appui et sa protection, et qu'elle espérait enfin que dorénavant leur conduite ne donnerait plus lieu à des plaintes.

Ils protestèrent de leur dévouement au Gouvernement Impérial, et firent les promesses les plus formelles de se soumettre à ses ordres, et qu'eux aussi comprenaient parfaitement cette fausse situation, et qu'ils savaient que la vie menée jusqu'aujourd'hui ne pouvait continuer. Cette entrevue fit croire qu'effectivement ils changeraient leur conduite, que la tranquillité et la sûreté serait rétablie, mais son Altesse le Vali s'en méfia et les faits démontreront combien cette méfiance, et ce manque de confiance a été justifiée. Il ne se passa pas quelques mois que les méfaits recommencèrent à se perpétrer journellement au détriment des populations,

du commerce, et de l'agriculture ; des caravanes furent attaqués, pillés, et des gens furent massacrés.

Le Vali réclama les coupables. A cette demande ils répondirent qu'ils pouvaient rendre les objets volés, et même payer une certaine somme à titre d'indemnité, mais que remettre les coupables à la justice, cela était contre leur principe et leur foi. A cette reprise catégorique le Pacha leur fit savoir que cette conduite ne confirmait pas leur promesse, et qu'il désirait voir certains des Cheichs.

On continuait encore ses pourparlers lorsqu'un fait vint faire éclater tout le désir de vengeance et de haine de la part des Houranais qui, à bout de patience, prirent les armes pour mettre fin à cet état de choses.

Voici le résumé du Rapport du Commissaire :—

(Traduction de l'Arabe.)

"Ayant été envoyé et chargé de mettre fin au conflit, et procéder à une enquête minutieuse sur les faits, juger les coupables, et leur infliger les condamnations d'après les règlements et nos lois, je viens vous soumettre mon Rapport.

"Un habitant de Tof ayant ravi, il y a deux ans, une jeune fille du village de Déraa, pour l'amener vers le village de Bassir-el-Herari, rencontra des paysans en train de moissoner. La fille héla les paysans et les supplia de la délivrer en déclarant qu'elle avait été enlevé de force. Ces derniers l'arrachèrent des mains de son ravisseur et la livrèrent à Cheich Yassim Mouktar du village. Le ravisseur eut recours à Suleyman El Ali, Cheich du village Durze de Neara, situé dans les environs de Bassir-el-Herari, qui intervint pour demander au Cheich, Yassim répondit qu'il ne pouvait le faire sans que la jeune fille ne donna son consentement.

Suleyman El Ali, irrité et choqué de ce refus, réunit les gens de son village et ceux de Doueri, tous armés, pour venir enlever la fille de chez Yassim. Cheich Yassim et les personnes qui se trouvaient dans ce moment chez lui refusèrent, et alors un des Druzes faisant feu la balle a atteint l'œil du frère du Cheich, ce qui le rendit borgne.

De là part l'inimitié entre les habitants de Bassir-el-Herari et ceux de Doueri. Mardi le 21 Cheval, 1296, les noces de Mahmoud El Cassim et d'Oly devant être célébrée, et comme il est d'usage dans ce pays qu'on invite des amis et parents à de pareilles cérémonies, les deux époux furent invités à la tente du nommé Hussein El Haudel, berger de Bassir-el-Herari. Le Cheich de Neara qui se trouvait dans la tente, ayant vu les invités arriver, sort brusquement, monta à cheval et s'enfuit. Vu l'ancienne inimitié, un des invités tira un coup de fusil après lui.

Le Cheich Suleyman El Ali, une fois arrivé dans son village, fit venir les habitants des villages Doueri, Harrani, Dour, et les amenant avec lui, attaqua la tente, tua huit personnes, blessa treize, dont trois succombèrent à la suite de leurs graves blessures. Donc, le vrai motif provient de cette ancienne haine et vengeance. Les agresseurs ont mis en mille pieces les corps des personnes tuées et appartenant au village Bassir-el-Herari, et donna cruellement la mort à ceux qui respiraient encore. Fatigués des souffrances tous les habitants du Hauran avaient réunis quelques milliers d'hommes d'infanterie et plus de 2,500 cavaliers.

Comme vous remarquerez le vilayet se hâta de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour procéder à une enquête puis en expédiant des troupes pour arrêter l'effusion de sang.

On espérait que toutes ces mesures auraient suffi pour rétablir la tranquillité publique.

Personne donc ne peut critiquer la mesure prise dans cette circonstance par le Gouverneur-Général.

Les Houranais demandent tout simplement à se faire juger par un Tribunal compétent avec les Druzes ! L'autorité n'est-elle pas tenue d'y accéder ?

Malheureusement l'attitude des Druzes, et un peu l'empressement des Houranais à se venger, fit éclater un combat qui aurait pu cesser grâce aux efforts de l'officier de gendarmerie envoyé sur les lieux avec un détachement pour séparer les combattants, si l'arrivée des deux compagnies de l'armée régulière ne s'étaient pressées de s'immiscer.

Il résulte, d'après les informations, que les Druzes se sont retirés après avoir perdu environ 250 à 280 hommes, et beaucoup de blessés, et nos troupes occupèrent leurs villages. Nos pertes sont évaluées à 70 hommes entre morts et blessé .

Depuis cette bataille il n'y a plus eu un nouvel engagement.

Les inculpés que le Gouvernement réclamait des Druzes étaient 23 : 13 furent tués dans le combat, 6 sont mortellement blessés, et 4 furent amenés pour être jugés.

Il fut décidé que Saïd Bey Talhouk, le Druze, serait nommé Caïmacam de la montagne Druze. Vu cet arrangement, et la conclusion de cette affaire, les Cheichs du Liban envoyés par Rustem Pacha demandèrent à s'en retourner. Le Pacha les remercia tout de même de l'empressement mis à tenir de leurs bonnes intentions et attachement pour le Gouvernement.

En résumé, les avantages résultant de ce conflit peuvent se diviser de la façon suivante :—

1. En adoptant cette conduite énergique le Gouvernement a prouvé aux populations soumises qu'elle peut toujours compter sur l'appui de l'autorité.

2. Démontrer aux Druzes que leurs anciennes prétentions à ne pas vouloir se soumettre aux lois et règlements du pays ne peuvent plus être tolérées.

3. Que là où la dignité du Gouvernement et le prestige militaire sont engag rien n'est épargné pour arriver à une réparation digne et honorable.

4. Qu'il est téméraire de penser qu'on peut impunément se croire assez fort pour imposer sa volonté, et troubler la sécurité publique.

5. Qu'il est inadmissible d'admettre qu'une tribu puisse vivre dans des conditions de brigandage au milieu de populations paisibles.

6. Qu'enfin l'ancien état de choses existant dans le Djébel Druze, c'est-à-dire, la simple apparence d'être soumis, d'avoir un Caïmacam, sans vouloir reconnaître l'autorité ni payer les impôts, vient de cesser, et aujourd'hui, au lieu d'être simplement une mesure négative, devient effective.

No. 161.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1086.)

Constantinople, December 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a private letter addressed to me by the Rev. Mr. Barnum describing the state of affairs at Kharpoot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 161.

The Rev. H. Barnum to Sir A. H. Layard.

Kharpoot, November 6, 1879.

My dear Sir,

IN the early part of this correspondence I wrote a good deal respecting the deplorable state of the Local Government here, the incapacity and inefficiency of the Mutessarif, and of the corruption of the officials of every grade. If I have said less upon this head of late, it is not because of any improvement or because matters have not grown worse and worse, but because it did not seem necessary to repeat information once given. I have also written of the great energy displayed by the Reform Commissioners, and that although they did not attempt to reform what is most in need of reformation, yet their coming had inspired the hope of some slight improvement, of a little less oppression, and of a little greater security to life and property. I am sorry to say, however, that even this hope is disappointed. Not to speak of the disappointment of the people at the rebuke which the Commissioners received from the Porte for the energy which they displayed in removing so many bad characters from the region of Diarbekir and Mardin, I will confine myself to matters here.

One of the first measures which Abeddin Pasha undertook upon his arrival here was to organize a body of police, and to reorganize the gendarmerie. In Diarbekir and Anatolia I learn that men of high position, comparatively, were secured for the police, but here the confidence in the Government and in its ability to pay the salaries regularly was so small that an inferior class of men was secured. Even these have not received their instructions, for the Mutessarif refuses to recognize them, says that he has no money with which to pay them, &c., and now they are trying to get their resignations accepted.

The Commissioners have been recognized as a Court of Appeal. Hundreds of petitions have poured in upon them. Some of these have received a prompt decision by

the Commissioners themselves, others have been referred back to the proper Courts, and others to a Special Commission which Abeddin Pasha appointed to examine particular cases which in their nature demanded revision. He imprisoned twenty-eight men, not the worst, perhaps, in the community, most of whom he would probably have banished if he had the power, and left them for the Court and the Commission to decide. He sent special Commissioners to Palu and to the Chercujah regions to endeavour to persuade the Beys—the feudal oppressors of those districts—to give the people their rights. These Beys having heard of events at Diarbekir were in great terror, and would perhaps have adopted some humane plan, but they soon saw that the hand which struck so heavy blows in Diarbekir and in Kharpoot was broken, and the Pasha himself leaving for Siwas meantime, the Beys declined to make any change,

Then came Mannas Effendi, the Second Commissioner. From the first Turkish officials and Turks of the higher class kept aloof from him. He showed himself to be honest and very energetic, but he is a "giaour." He at once set himself to follow up the plans of the First Commissioner, but in a perfectly unostentatious way. The keeper of the Government store-house was found to be a defaulter and Mannas Effendi caused him to be imprisoned. The Sarraf of the Government was suspected, and Mannas Effendi suddenly sealed the chest containing the money and the accounts but the seal was broken, and for that the Sarraf was put in prison. These, I believe, are the only imprisonments which Mannas Effendi has made.

I have already written to your Excellency that Mannas Effendi was determined if possible to unearth some of the rascalities connected with the tithes. He constituted a Commission under his own Presidency, for the examination of this matter. These investigations, if successful, are sure to implicate the Mutessarif and others, so of course they naturally strive to thwart proceedings.

When Abeddin Pasha was here, it was apparent that Nafi Effendi, the Mutessarif, was ill at ease. Soon after Mannas Effendi came. The Mutessarif began to use obstructive measures. He refused, as I have said, to recognize the police. Mannas Effendi endeavoured to secure his co-operation in matters of reform, but in vain. When Mannas Effendi asked for the papers necessary to examine into the tithes and other taxes, the Mutessarif commanded the Departments to which they belonged not to give them up. He told the members of the Commission, so I learn, not to attend its sessions. Mannas Effendi, while occupying a private house as residence, occupied as his office one of the rooms of the Governor's house—one of the three or four which Abeddin Pasha occupied. The Mutessarif sent him a note protesting against his work here, saying that he was meddling in what was none of his business, and ordering him to leave the premises. Failing in this, he secured an order from the Idaré Medjliss to the Zaptieh Department to the effect that no more arrests should be made upon his order or that of the Special Commission, and were depriving him of personal attendants. To cap the climax all the men who were imprisoned by Abeddin Pasha have been set at liberty. These men had many of them been examined by the Commission and found guilty of gross misdemeanours, and the proof passed over to the Court for their confirmation and the fixing of their sentence, and the rest were undergoing examination, but yesterday the prison doors were thrown open and they were officially let loose with a considerable pomp. The Commissioner of the Sublime Porte, who two months ago was sending rebel Chiefs into exile, cannot now even imprison a man or control a zaptieh. He has made no demonstration, but has telegraphed these matters to the Minister of the Interior, and is now quietly sitting in his hired house. Of course it would be impossible for him to attempt to prosecute business in this state of affairs. This display of energy and courage on the part of the Mutessarif surprises everybody, for he has shown very little of either in his administration hitherto.

After watching the progress of this so-called "reform" movement here, I am persuaded that this system is not a hopeful one. For nearly two months past we have had practically two separate Governments here, but each defeating the other, so that there can scarcely be said to be any Government at all. Even the children in the streets know of the disgraceful pass to which matters have come—an open quarrel between high officials. It is generally understood that the secret of this quarrel is that our Mutessarif, who is a fanatical Moslem, cannot brook the investigations of a Christian, and Christians regard this case as likely to decide the question whether a Christian can hold a high position under this Government and be sustained. If honest and capable men, Mahommedans and Christians, can be found in sufficient numbers to send one or two Commissioners to each vilayet and Mutessariflik, making them Valis and Mutessarifs, with large liberty and a good degree of independence of action, it seems to me it would work better than the present system, which works much discord. The Local Governments

in Diarbekir and Mardin opposed the Commissioners, but not so openly as here. I am assured that there are good men at Constantinople well-fitted for office and honest, belonging to a class from which high officials are not generally taken, who would serve without stealing if they were to receive a competent salary. The representative of the Armenian Patriarch here, says, "We at the Patriarchate can point out to the Government men competent to be Judges or Governors even, from Turks and Greeks even, as well as Armenians, but the trouble is there is a large class of men for whom the Government feels under obligation to make provision, as they are the favourites of certain officials, and so they are sent to fill important places without regard to their qualifications." One of our Mutessarifs, some years ago, told me distinctly, "It costs us so much to get an office that we are obliged to take bribes." A few honest active officials from abroad would at least be a restraint upon the rest, even if they could not eradicate corruption at once. The Muhessabiz at this place I believe to be a good man, but he is not very much inclined to meddle in outside matters. There may be one or two more honest men among a large class of officials. If so, I think that this will exhaust the list of honest men among them.

A large portion of the soldiers in the Dersim district were sent to the region of Van o me time ago, and troubles have again broken out among the Kurds.

Please excuse the length of this letter, and believe me, &c.

(Signed) H. N. BARNUM.

P.S.—Mannas Effendi, as I have previously written, desires to be called to Constantinople, so as to be able to explain to the Ministry and to your Excellency the state of affairs in the interior, and to endeavour to secure some modifications of the instructions given to the Commissioners. I am credibly informed that Dervish Pasha, after enriching himself by bribes and presents from the Kurds, as a return to them gave some of them letters of recommendation to his officers to "help the Kurds collect their claims" in certain villages, which "claims are an annual tax, a "black mail," which they levy upon the villages.

H. N. B.

No. 162.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 1097.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the Patriarch of the Gregorian Armenians, informing me that the Kurdish Chiefs arrested by Abeddin Pasha, and now imprisoned at Aleppo, are doing their utmost to obtain permission to return to Diarbekir, and pointing out the danger to which the Christians who had urged complaints against them would be exposed if they were released.

On my representing the matter to Sawas Pasha, his Excellency stated that he would telegraph at once to the Imperial authorities at Aleppo to continue to keep the Kurdish prisoners in confinement until arrangements were made for their transfer to some other place.

Your Lordship will remember that these Kurdish Chiefs were in the first instance banished to Albania, but that the French Ambassador protested against their being sent to that province on the plea that it was intended that they should join the Albanians in making war against the Greeks, a step on his part which I much regretted, as it furnished the Porte with an excuse not to remove them far from their native country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Monsignor Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Particulière.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 1/13 Novembre*, 1879.

UNE lettre d'Alep en date du 1/13 courant m'ayant appris que les 120 Kurdes de Siourt et des environs, condamnés à l'exil par Abeddin Pasha pour leurs innombrables méfaits et incarcérés dans la Caserne d'Alep, font des démarches incessantes pour obtenir leur retour à Diarbekir, je m'empresse d'appeler l'attention spéciale de votre Excellence sur les graves dangers auxquels seraient certainement exposés les Arméniens de Siourt et des environs si ces malfaiteurs effectuaient leur retour chez eux au milieu de ces populations Chrétiennes qui avaient formulé devant les Commissaires Impériaux des plaintes contre l'oppression effrénée des scélérats en question.

En vous priant de vouloir bien intervenir auprès de qui de droit pour épargner aux Arméniens une si terrible épreuve, j'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 163.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 61. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, December* 6, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of the 8th ultimo, transmitting copy of a confidential despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the state of affairs in Syria, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a confidential despatch which I have this day addressed to his Excellency on the same subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Beyrout, December* 6, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch, Confidential, of the 8th ultimo, I regret to have to state, for your Excellency's information, that the reports which continue to reach me from various parts of the country are extremely unfavourable, and expose Midhat Pasha's administration to the most adverse strictures.

I had the honour to refer, in my above-mentioned Report, to the proceedings of Yussef Agha el Mamlouk in the Saïda district, and to the protection afforded to him by Raef Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout. I have lately been informed, upon reliable authority, that this individual, who is the scourge of that part of the country, has received and parades a letter from the Vali, conveying to him his Highness' approbation and expressions of friendship, of which he naturally avails himself to strengthen his hands and terrorize those who might be inclined to bring accusations against him.

His Highness is further reported to have promised Yussef Agha that he would avail himself of his proffered hospitality on the occasion of his proposed journey south. Such unusual demonstrations of cordiality towards a man whose reputation is notorious cannot but create the most unfavourable impression.

From the Baalbeck district I am informed, on the most credible authority, that the officials intrusted with the proposed reduction of the land tax have adopted openly, and with the averred sanction of their superiors in Damascus, a method of procedure which for shameless corruption is almost unparalleled. They have, namely, given notice that those landowners who wish to enjoy a reduction of taxation can obtain one of 50 per cent. by paying so-called fees for the operation amounting to double the amount reduced, these fees being divided in equal parts between the local officials and the authorities at Damascus, a certain portion being advisedly set apart for the Vali himself. By this means the Treasury loses 50 per cent. of its revenue, with a corresponding relief to the tax-payer at the cost of a moderate outlay, and a clear profit to the officials, which amounts in the aggregate to the whole of one year's taxation. An instance of how these reductions are effected has been reported to me in detail. The taxes on a certain estate

belonging to a British subject in the Belad Baalbeck was formerly assessed at 9,000 piastres per annum, but some years ago, the agent in charge having refused to pay a fee or bribe of 600 piastres, the taxes were raised to 4,492½ piastres, at which figure they remained until the recent fiscal operations above alluded to. They have now been reduced to 1,860¾ piastres, in the following way: the amount of the reduction (2,632¼ piastres) was doubled, and paid in the shape of fees or bribes (amounting to 5,264½ piastres) and 100 piastres were levied as Treasury fees, besides which 517 piastres were disbursed as presents, before the seals were affixed to the papers, which defraud the fisc of annual revenue of 2,632 piastres. The above sums were received without any attempt at concealment in the open Medjlis, and there and then divided. All efforts to obtain a reduction of taxation on legitimate grounds and by legitimate means, without having recourse to bribery, were unavailing. This instance, amongst many others, suffices to throw light upon the prospects of financial reform in Syria, for, if my information is correct, similar operations for the reduction of the land-tax are in course of progress in other districts of the vilayet.

From Tripoli unfavourable reports reach me concerning the general state of affairs, though the tramway which is to connect the town with the harbour is, I am glad to say, progressing rapidly towards completion under the superintendence of an energetic overseer sent out from England at Midhat Pasha's request. I may here mention that the Christian recently appointed by his Highness to the Kaïmakamlik of Merkab was formerly Mudir of the Marine or port of Tripoli, and bears a most unenviable reputation.

From Acre a petition has been addressed to me by the Druses of that district, through the medium of their religious Chiefs in the Lebanon, complaining bitterly of the vexatious and unjust treatment they are subjected to by the local authorities.

Altogether, I am daily more and more convinced that the expectations raised by Midhat Pasha's appointment to Syria are doomed to be disappointed, and that his administration does not materially differ from that of previous Governors, against whom it has been my duty from time to time to report in a no less adverse sense than that which I now regret to have to express with regard to his Highness.

As to how far the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is to be attributed to the insufficiency of the powers possessed by the Governor-General, it is impossible for me to pronounce an opinion, though it is generally believed that Midhat Pasha allows abuses to continue in order that he may obtain a larger amount of authority to enable him to check them; but, be that as it may, want of sufficient power cannot be alleged as an excuse for encouraging such men as Yussef el Mamlouk and Halil Bey el Assad.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 164.

Consul Moore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 5. Political.)

My Lord, *Jerusalem, December* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch No. 10 of the 6th December, 1879, to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, with its inclosure, relative to the condition of the Christian inhabitants of the town of Kerak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Consul Moore to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Jerusalem, December* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for such action thereon with the Governor-General of Syria as you may think proper, a memorial which has been addressed to me by the Christian Notables of the town of Kerak, on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, complaining of the oppression and spoliation to which they are subjected by the Moslems of that town and the Bedouins of the neighbourhood.

A similar memorial has also been presented to my French colleague.

The oppressed state of the Christians of Kerak, who number about 2,000 souls, Greeks and Latins, has long been well known, and there is no doubt that their situation is one of great suffering and insecurity.

The remedy would be the assimilation of Kerak to other towns, by the appointment of a regular Turkish Governor, supported by a small garrison of regular troops. At present the virtual irresponsible Governor is the notorious Sheikh Moujelli, who is little better than a highway robber and quasi-rebel.

I am sending a copy of this despatch, with its inclosure, to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Mémorial from the Christians of Kerak to Consul Moore.

(Translation.)
(After the usual compliments.)

YOU are not ignorant of the oppressions and vexations to which we, the Christians of the town of Kerak, are subjected. These acts of tyranny are increasing day by day, both from within and from without, such as the plunder of our cattle and our produce, and hindering us from cultivating our lands. If you wish to know who these aggressors are, our deputies, the bearers of this memorial, will inform you. To such a degree are we insulted and outraged that the Moslems of our town have now become so bold as to abduct our girls, and forcibly marry them.

We can no longer bear such treatment, which is contrary to all law, ecclesiastical and civil. Our consciences are outraged; we are in fearful danger; we despair of protection for our honour and our religion, and have no refuge save God and your Government. If you withhold your protection from us we shall be destroyed by the edge of the sword in this town, and our blood, and the blood of our children, will be demanded of you on the last great day.

Our deputies will inform you in detail of all the outrages and spoliations and tyrannies which we endure. At the present time many of the Christians are scattered, and we know not where they have gone to, in consequence of their fears and sufferings. This is what we have to lay before the British Consulate, and may God preserve your illustrious Government.

(Follow the signatures of the Superior of the Greek Convent, at Kerak, and of 17 priests and Notables.)

P.S.—Since the above was written one of the Christians has been murdered in his house by night.

No. 165.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzinjan, November* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that while *en route* from Erzeroum to Diarbekir I have made a stay of a full week in Erzinjan, the present head quarters of the 4th Corps d'Armée, with a view to making inquiries into the state of the country and of making the personal acquaintance of the staff of the army.

I must defer submitting a detailed Report as to the state of the country until my arrival at Diarbekir, merely remarking that I am happy to have observed that in the town of Erzinjan, a considerable city, containing about 16,000 inhabitants, a much better feeling appears to prevail between Christians and Mahommedans (who are in the proportion of about four to seven) than I have observed elsewhere in this country. This is exemplified by the fact that a few days after my arrival I was invited by the Armenian Bishop and the Armenian community to a grand banquet, to which all the military and civil Pashas and local notabilities were also invited. The Reis Pasha proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, to which I responded by proposing that of His Majesty the Sultan. Various other toasts and speeches followed, and the meeting was altogether a great success, and will, I hope, tend to keep up a good fellowship between the two communities.

This evening the Reis Pasha gives me a grand official dinner, for which, I understand, great preparations have been making for several days past. All the principal military and civil officials, and the local notabilities, both Moslem and Christian, have

been invited. The Pasha's letter of invitation to me was couched in the most courteous terms, and referred to the amity which has existed for so long between the English and Turkish nations.

These polite attentions on the part of the military authorities are doubtless in some measure due to the fact that I accompanied the Turkish armies in Asia as Military Attaché during the late war, and was then personally known to several of the officers here. Still it is satisfactory to note that so much good feeling exists on the part of the superior military authorities towards Her Majesty's Representative in these parts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 166.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, December* 26.)

[Inclosure 7 in Sir A. H. Layard's No. 1126.]

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Adana, December* 2, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Mutessarif, though offering the public lands as security, has been unable to induce the Notables of Kaisarieh to subscribe to the loan of £ T. 15,000.

The people plead the efforts made during the late war as an excuse for not subscribing now, and have offered instead immediately to pay half the sum due on account of taxes during the coming year. The offer had not been accepted when I left Kaisarieh on the 19th ultimo.

About two months ago the Adana vilayet was called upon to find £ T. 50,000. This sum the Vali cannot raise easily, but a group of Greek merchants have offered to subscribe the nominal sum required at 12 per cent interest on the security of the salt lake near Tarsus, and on condition that one quarter of the amount should be considered as already paid by the cancel of outstanding debts. Zea Pasha has reported the offer, but the Porte has not yet accepted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 167.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 1101.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 13, 1879.

WITH reference to Major Trotter's despatch to your Lordship No. 25 of the 8th August last, in which he reports a case of brigandage near Erzeroum, and the abduction of a Mussulman girl from Mama Khatoun, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a Report from the Governor-General of Erzeroum on these two cases, which has been communicated to me by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Extract from a Report by the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Erzeroum.

UNE bande de brigands portant le costume de Circassiens a effectivement emporté un certain nombre de chevaux d'une caravane dans la localité dite Palau Denken, distante de trois heures d'Erzéroum. L'autorité aussitôt qu'elle en a eu connaissance a dépêché des agents de la police à la recherche des malfaiteurs. Une partie du butin, soit dix chevaux abandonnés sur la route, ont été retrouvés. On attend incessamment l'arrivée d'un Arménien de Kars, dont la présence est jugée nécessaire pour l'instruction de l'affaire.

Comme il a été constaté que des bandits Persans sont de connivence dans ces sortes d'attaques, le Gouverneur-Général a invité le Commandant Militaire d'Erzéroum à prendre des mesures le long de la frontière et à y faire une surveillance sévère. De même des démarches ont été faites tant auprès de l'Ambassadeur Impérial à Téhéran et du Consulat Ottoman à Tauris qu'auprès de celui de Perse à Erzéroum, pour provoquer d'urgence l'adoption de mesures de rigueur contre les tribus Persanes de la frontière et empêcher leur passage sur le sol Ottoman. Le Gouverneur de Bayazid a été, de son côté, invité à agir avec rigueur pour rétablir et maintenir la sécurité publique dans le district.

Pour ce qui est de l'affaire de Mama Khatoun, bien que la fille Musulmane enlevée n'ait pas été retrouvée, la tranquillité publique n'a été nullement compromise grâce aux mesures adoptées par le fonctionnaire envoyé à cet effet sur les lieux. On peut être sûr d'ailleurs que toute sédition quelconque ayant pour mobile la vengeance ou un autre but sera vigoureusement punie par les autorités, qui veillent toujours.

Sublime Porte, le 6 Décembre, 1879.

No. 168.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 26.*)

(No. 1105. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 14*, 1879.

THE notorious Shiekh Obeidullah, or Abdullah, the Kurdish Chief, who is responsible for the treacherous massacre of the Russian troops and the Christians at Bayazid during the late war, and who has recently been in rebellion against the Sultan, has received the Order of the Osmaniyeh of the Second Class, whilst his son, Abdul Kader Effendi, has been given the Fourth Class of the same Order, and Said Effendi, the Agent of the Sheikh at Van, the Fourth Class of the Medjidiejeh.

I have availed myself of an opportunity to point out to the Prime Minister that such marks of His Majesty's favour and approval bestowed on a notorious and cruel fanatic and robber Chief like Sheikh Obeydullah cannot but make a most unfavourable impression upon public opinion, and is, at the same time, most injurious to the true interests of His Majesty and of the Porte, as an encouragement is thus offered to rebellion. I said that I felt the more surprised at the distinctions thus conferred upon the Sheikh and his son, as the Sultan himself had strongly condemned their conduct to me, and had informed me that they were about to be brought to Constantinople byonte of his Aides-de-camp, and would be banished to Brussa.

Saïd Pasha replied that Samih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the 4th Army Corps, which had been sent against the Kurds, who had risen in rebellion under Sheikh Obeidullah, had strongly recommended that the decorations in question should be conferred upon the Chief and his son with a view to inducing them to submit to the Sultan and to come to Constantinople. The matter had been brought before the Council, and he (Saïd Pasha), supported by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, had declared himself against Samih Pasha's suggestion, on the ground that, to reward a man who had recently been in open rebellion against his Sovereign, was not only highly improper but contrary to good policy, as it would have the effect of inciting others to follow his example. But the majority of the Council were of opinion that any measure would be justified which might contribute to securing the person of so notorious and powerful a Chief as Sheikh Obeidullah without further bloodshed. The Council had, consequently, advised the Sultan to confer the decorations upon the Sheikh and his son, in conformity with the recommendation of Samih Pasha.

The Porte in this instance appears to be resorting to its old policy of showing favours to powerful personages whom it wishes to get into its power, and of possessing itself by cunning and deceit of their persons. It is not a policy which has proved very successful hitherto.

Captain Clayton informs me that he has heard that Sheikh Obeidullah and his son will leave Kurdistan for Constantinople, accompanied by the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, in the spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 169.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December 26.*)

(No. 1118.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 16*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a Circular which has been telegraphed by the Prime Minister to the Governors-General of all the provinces, and published in the Constantinople papers, instructing them to furnish a monthly return of all crimes committed in the provinces they govern.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Extract from "La Turquie" of December 16, 1879.

(Traduction.)

Son Altesse Said Pasha, Premier Ministre de l'Empire Ottoman, aux Gouverneurs-Généraux des Provinces.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le 28 Novembre*, 1879 (v.s.).

DANS les provinces des plaintes ne cessent d'être élevées contre la faiblesse de la police, et contre les méfaits qui s'y commettent, tels que brigandages, meurtres, ainsi que contre les procédés injustes des Notables envers les particuliers.

Bien que le Gouvernement Impérial, aussitôt informé que ces actes qui donnent lieu à des plaintes, s'empresse d'interpeller les autorités provinciales, tout en recommandant les mesures les plus propres à prévenir les faits de nature à porter atteinte à la sécurité du public, il arrive néanmoins que les autorités provinciales dans leurs réponses déclarent que les faits allégués sont exagérés ou dénués de tout fondement.

Certes, vu l'impossibilité matérielle où se trouve chaque pays de prévenir tous actes contraires à la justice et aux lois, un certain nombre de ces plaintes pourraient être envisagées comme inhérentes à la nature des choses. Mais au point de vue de la justice et de l'équité, ce qui est essentiel c'est que l'autorité se préoccupe sans cesse et sans retard de son devoir de veiller à ce que les intérêts et les droits du public soient sauvegardés par les lois; en d'autres termes, que lorsque des cas de méfaits plus ou moins graves seraient commis en un endroit quelconque de l'Empire, leurs auteurs soient punis conformément à la loi, et que ceux qui seraient victimes de ces actes d'injustice obtiennent pleine justice.

Aussi, afin de pouvoir constater si ce principe trouve partout son application régulière, et afin de prendre les mesures nécessaires contre les fonctionnaires qui ne s'y seraient pas conformés, il importe que le Gouvernement Central soit mis régulièrement au courant de tous les méfaits. Or, il est vrai qu'il n'existait jusqu'ici aucune règle définie concernant les communications à faire à ce sujet par les autorités provinciales, et que les renseignements reçus par le Gouvernement Central ne lui étaient transmis qu'à la suite de ses demandes d'explications aux autorités provinciales. Il s'ensuit que les faits ayant trait au manque de la sécurité publique ne cessant pas de trouver partout écho, de fournir matière aux attaques de la presse et aux récriminations des adversaires de l'Empire, continuent à porter préjudice aux intérêts du Gouvernement et du pays.

Afin d'obvier à cette situation, je juge nécessaire d'inviter votre Excellence à prendre acte des dispositions suivantes:—

Il doit être dressé des états mensuels imprimés et numérotés où l'on annotera tous les méfaits, tels que meurtres, brigandages et tous actes qualifiés crime par le Code Pénal, avec indication de la date de leur perpétration, les noms et les prénoms des auteurs et ceux des victimes, ainsi qu'un résumé des circonstances. Ces états seront presentés par les Caïmacams des cazas aux Mutessarifs, qui auront à les faire parvenir au Gouverneur-Général de la province, conjointement avec les états identiques des cazas placés sous leur juridiction directe. Les Gouverneurs-Généraux sont, à leur tour, invités à envoyer régulièrement au Ministre de l'Intérieur les états qu'ils recevront, en ayant soin d'y joindre ceux qui seront dressés, dans des formes identiques, pour les cazas relevant de leur administration immédiate.

Ces pièces porteront une annotation supplémentaire signée par les autorités civiles

et militaires de chaque localité, certifiant la non-existence des faits autres que ceux portés sur les états respectifs.

Ceux des fonctionnaires publics qui se seraient avisés de ne pas faire mention des méfaits commis dans leur juridiction seront révoqués de leurs fonctions sans préjudice des autres pénalités qu'ils pourront encourir au besoin. De même, tout retard dans l'envoi de ces pièces sera puni, la première fois par un avertissement adressé par le Gouverneur-Général au Mutessarif et au Caïmacam, fautif, la seconde fois, par la retenue à titre de pénalité, d'un mois de leurs appointements, et, la troisième fois, par leur révocation. Ces dispositions ayant été simultanément communiquées au Ministère de l'Intérieur ainsi qu'aux Gouverneurs-Généraux des provinces, votre Excellence est invitée à prendre les mesures les plus propres à l'accomplissement des dispositions sus-mentionnées.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) SAÏD.

No. 170.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1121.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1879.

I REGRET to say that Mr. Charles Ede, whom the Porte had, on my recommendation, named a Judicial Inspector, with a view to carrying out one of the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government, has declined to accept the post. He had demanded, as conditions, that he should receive 150*l.* a-month, that his salary should be paid to him through the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and that a formal contract should be made with him for five years.

To the two first conditions the Porte agreed, but refused to entertain the third, on the ground that it would compel it to retain Mr. Ede's services under any circumstances for a considerable period. Mr. Ede, on the other hand, has stated to me that he cannot give up his practice as a lawyer here unless his position under the Turkish Government is secured to him for at least five years.

It was intended at first to name Mr. Ede Inspector of Tribunals in the Vilayet of Adrianople, but on my representing to the Minister of Justice that Her Majesty's Government would attach more importance to his being sent to some province in Asia Minor, his Excellency agreed to appoint him to Trebizond, with the understanding, that if the experiment proved successful, his duties as Judicial Inspector should be extended to Erzeroum and other parts of Armenia.

Mr. Ede is the only Englishman with whom I am acquainted who possesses the knowledge of the languages and laws of the country required for the post that has been offered to him. I am consequently very sorry that he should have refused to accept it. The terms agreed to with him were, it appears to me, very liberal, and the Porte can scarcely be blamed for hesitating to bind itself for so long a period as five years.

I understand that the Minister of Justice will endeavour to find another foreigner to whom the appointment can be given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 171.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1123.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of two very interesting Reports from Lieutenant Chermside upon the general state of the Province of Aleppo, the proceedings of the Reforms Commission, and the affairs of Zeitoun.

I have considered it my duty to communicate parts of these despatches to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Tarsus, November* 26, 1879.

IN forwarding to your Excellency the following despatch on Zeitoun affairs, which in all the more important points may now be considered settled, I have to apologize for the length at which I have written.

I have done so rather with regard to the future than to the present, and in the belief that it is my duty to give as full a general statement as I can as to the state of that part of the country, and to note at once any measures or precautions the neglect or omission of which may prove the germ of future sufferings or disorder.

This despatch forms a sequel to Nos. 11 and 12.

I have already described in a former despatch the unsatisfactory political turn that affairs had taken on my first arrival. The Armenians had been in communication with the Patriarchate at Constantinople, and aspirations that I deemed quite unreasonable had been fostered by educated Armenians not belonging to Zeitoun.

How far the Patriarchate was responsible for this I am not prepared to state, but the national trait of turning to intrigue instead of open-handed dealing, national and historical since the days of the Assyrian and Medish Empires, seems as strong as ever.

A young educated Armenian from Constantinople had passed some three months at Zeitoun this summer, and much of the mischief was, I believe, due to him. There is also an educated schoolmaster, subsidized by the Armenian Société de Cilicie, now at Zeitoun, but I cannot say whether he has been meddling in political matters or not. There was, besides this, the introduction of the "French influence," as I have already informed your Excellency, mainly due to the Catholics and Jesuits; the Superior of the latter Order at Beyrout was, indeed, just dispatching one of its members to Zeitoun, when the proceeding was counter-ordered.

Instead, then, of the Armenians completely trusting to British influence, which had done so much for them, to insure an equitable solution, and of following the guidance of the British Representative, I found such catch-words in vogue as an "Armenian Montenegro," "it is absolutely necessary for the garrison to be retired at once, as its presence infringes the privileges which, if your Government does not secure for us, other Governments will know how to," "a fixed tribute," "a Christian Governor," and so on.

I was informed that Prince Bismarck was of opinion that the garrison ought to be withdrawn, and would support the demand, &c.! I presume this merely means that the Constantinople Patriarchate has been in communication with the German Embassy, as the Armenians would not scruple to build up such a story on such a slight foundation.

The Catholics of Sis (Gregorian) apparently not content with the action of the Consul and myself, wrote to the French Consul. Your Excellency is aware, I believe, that a Russian Agent has (as I am informed) recently gone to visit the district. I have already informed your Excellency of the steps I took to prevent any political considerations affecting the equitable solution of the grievances of a poor ignorant population, and I merely mention the above details as indicating the existence of a spirit and of ideas among the Armenians, that are a factor which may prove of some importance in the future consideration of political issues.

I cannot state for certain the action of the Christian Commissioner at this period, but when I have an opportunity of conversing with your Excellency there are one or two points regarding his conduct that I shall do well to bring to your notice.

The Armenians speak much of their loyalty to the Sultan; all I have seen of them leads me to consider them a far more troublesome and difficult people to govern than the majority of the Moslems, and they are a nation of born intriguers. The highlanders, such as those of Zeitoun, Hadjin, &c., and neighbouring districts, seem the best, and the fact of their being armed and more independent than the others serves partially to account for this. At the same time, truth, integrity, and gratitude are lamentably deficient, and the Moslem population contrasts very favourably with them in this respect. A considerable portion of the responsibility for the absence of these qualities must rest with the Turkish authorities. The sentiments of the Armenians of the Taurus towards the latter are those of profound hatred and distrust. I see no evidence of a wish for reconciliation, for a fusion of interests if not of races, or for a joint consolidation of the power of the Empire. Ottoman patriotism there is none.

The animosity between Christian and Moslem is the usual one of religion, nor does

it seem to me less bitter and intense, or less firmly implanted in the Christians, or other in its tendency than that of the Christian populations of European Turkey.

I merely mention this because I am constantly told in the country of the duty of England towards the Armenians, that they are all that can be imagined of anti-Russian and so on. This may be the case of the Armenians of Constantinople, of those actually under Russian domination and of those in Eastern Armenia; it is not the case here. They would undoubtedly prefer an English occupation to a Russian, and failing either, will gladly accept any amount of special protection of any sort they can get; equally certain is it that they will look to any deliverer from what they consider an intolerable yoke.

I need not repeat my opinions as to their general backward condition, incapacity for self-government, or even, in most cases as yet, for any considerable share of local government, the latter, indeed, is clearly demonstrated by the ceaseless intrigues against one another and the irreconcilable feuds between their various sects. Notwithstanding this, their great and ready intelligence, aptitude for commerce, frugality, and industry, and their real desire for progress and education, designate them, as is the case with the other Christians of Asia Minor, as one of the coming races of the country. I don't know if your Excellency is aware that the Armenian women of Cilicia cover their faces with a veil like the Turkish women, that their privacy is almost as strictly guarded, and that even among the females of the greatest Notables it is so excessively rare to find a woman who can read or write that it is no exaggeration to state that as a rule none can do so. The Armenians are thus in this matter a contrast to the Arab and Syrian Christians. In spite of the above-mentioned natural defects of character, they are one of the races on which the exertion of English influence is likely to produce the most appreciable effects, the success of the American Protestant missionaries in instilling truth and integrity and supplying education is the best existing proof of this, and the Protestant community, though small, is undoubtedly more worthy of respect than any other Christian community I have come across in the country. As to the probability or possibility of the Armenians becoming under a consistent and equitable policy an element of strength in a consolidated Ottoman Empire, it is unnecessary for me to express an opinion, but as matters stand at present there exists among the Armenians of Cilicia a bitter hatred of Turks and Turkish domination, the fruit of a discord of centuries growth, and no glib assertions to the contrary or paper enactments can change this in a moment; such change must be the work of time. The Commission arrived at Zeitoun on the 2nd October and remained till the end of the month. I have already informed your Excellency of the submission of the majority of the outlaws (by despatch), and subsequently, by telegraph, of the submission of the Chief and the remainder.

Said Pasha's line of conduct was most judicious; he had endeavoured by all means in his power to allay the animosity of the two sections of the population, and to insure future tranquillity, and he was most anxious to avoid giving satisfaction to one section of the population at the expense of the other. He summoned the Notables of Zeitoun and of all the villages of the district, and spoke to them personally, and required a written guarantee that for the future they will be responsible for good order, that they will at once suppress any outbreak of brigandage, denouncing and giving up the offenders to the authorities.

A Commission was instituted to continue the work of land valuation, and to examine the alleged grievances of taxation. The amount of the taxes is given in my former despatch. The total amount averaged over 5,500,000 piastres (over 40,000*l.*). By the recent changes the "bedellieh," or military service tax is to be done away with, *i.e.*, over 160,000 piastres deducted from the taxation. The "emlek," land tax, and the "temettü" or "tijaret," or tax on professions and earnings, amounted to a sum between 150,000 and 200,000 piastres; these taxes, by the new valuation, have been reduced by upwards of 100,000 piastres. The "ushar," or tithe, will, in the immediate future, be collected directly by Government, and subsequently according to whatever system may be adopted for the whole vilayet.

There only remains the "aghnam," or sheep-tax. A petition was presented on this subject which seems very reasonable, namely, that the tax instead of being a fixed poll-tax, 6 piastres a-head on sheep and goats, should be a percentage of the average value of those animals in the district, say 10 per cent, as in the tithe. At present a wretched mountain goat worth 25 piastres pay the same tax as one of the long-tailed Karamanian sheep of the plains worth 60 to 80 piastres. I am not aware if any decisive answer was given to this petition.

The taxation of the vines, and the exactions of the "multezims," or farmers of this tithe was such that many vineyards had been abandoned at Zeitoun. By the new arrangement the vineyards are to be assessed, and to pay a fixed annual sum, not a proportionate one, assessed on the value of the crop. This measure appeared to give great local satisfaction.

As regards the "bakia," or arrears of taxation (2,300,000 piastres), the following equitable measure has been adopted. When the present assessment of the tax is complete, its application will be retrospective as well as prospective. The sum arrived at as a fair assessment will be considered what the population should have paid in the past. The difference between the amount of this estimated for a certain number of past years, and the actual receipts of the Local Government will be the amount of arrears due, for it is estimated that the actually paid will not amount to the sum due based on the new assessment. It was not certain when I left whether this measure would date from the first introduction of the regular taxes in lieu of a fixed tribute, or whether it would be for a smaller number of years. I presume that, in addition to the new assessment, in considering the question of arrears, the population will be liable for the "bedellieh," or exemption from military service tax. As this was about 160,000 piastres per annum, it is a most important consideration, but the question had not been raised when I left. As regards the question of a Christian Kaimakam, the present Governor, a Moslem of excellent reputation, is not willing to remain, and it is intended, on his departure, to make the Christian "Mouvin," or Assistant-Governor, acting Kaimakam, and if his administration prove successful, to confirm him.

I need not repeat my own opinion on the subject of a Christian Governor to your Excellency. For the future, if the Governor be a Moslem there will be a Christian Assistant-Governor and *vice versâ*. The establishment of a corps of zaptiehs is complete. The Christian zaptiehs have not been giving satisfaction to the authorities. They are accused of disobedience of orders in failing to arrest Christians, &c., and of being insubordinate. The former consideration seems probable enough. Time will be required as well as discipline to conquer class prejudices. The same allegation might certainly be advanced against the majority of Moslem zaptiehs as regards their coreligionists. The latter charge is apparently due to the demands of the men for their salaries. They are as yet unaccustomed to serve without pay.

The establishment of the "harifs," or local "Gardes Champêtres," has to await the general application of the "Nahiyyé," or commerce scheme for the whole vilayet. Although Zeitoun is only a caza, an Idaré Medjliss has been established. The "Medjliss Makiumiehsi," or "Bidaiet," the Criminal and Civil Court, has been established in two sections, and the members are paid 250 piastres per month.

An order to receive back such arms as remain at Marash was given to the representatives of the inhabitants. A site for a school was selected. As far then as was possible, the application of Irade conceding the eleven points enumerated in the petition of the Zeitounli to the former Commission was proceeded with, and the following additional points, besides that of the "aghnam" above mentioned, were brought forward for the consideration of the Commission.

The question of the mine. Six hours from Zeitoun, in the heart of the mountains, at an elevation of 9,000 feet, is a mine of iron ore; the snows only permit of this being worked for about four months of the year. I visited the mine. It is worked on a very small scale, and on a very dangerous system; the ore put out is carried by mules for a distance of 12 hours over most difficult mountain paths to where there is fuel for a rough smelting process. In Turkey, according to the mining laws, I am informed, a mine pays 5 per cent. on the output if worked by the discoverer, but 25 per cent. if a Government mine rented to a lessee. The Zeitounli having worked their mine for years before the introduction of the regular taxes, contend that it should pay at the former rate, instead of at the latter, as is the case. This is a technical point on which I can give no opinion. It is in an almost inaccessible situation, and most unfavourably situated for any development. The present tax upon it appears prohibitive. When I visited it only six men were at work, at wages of 60 paras (1½ piastres) a-day.

Some details as to local dues or taxes on slaughter-houses, &c., were brought forward. The Zeitounli have a considerable traffic in grain, &c., with Gyuk Sun, and their muleteers and caravans suffer much at the hands of the Circassians, who are not under the jurisdiction of the Zeitoun Kaimakam; they are most anxious for the Gyuk Sun district to be added to the Zeitoun Caza. I do not concur in the expediency of this; it would be exceptionally difficult for the Zeitoun Governor to make his authority felt at such a distance; the communications are bad, and the distant district would suffer much from the site of Government being at Zeitoun. Gyuk Sun, however, should either replace Andarin, a settlement of fifteen or twenty houses in the heart of the mountains, as the seat of the Andarin Government, or belong to a separate caza. The Zeitounli

wish to belong to the Adana instead of to the Aleppo Vilayet. The communications with Sis, the seat of the Kozan Mutessarif, 37 hours, or about 120 miles, of mountain paths, most difficult for even lightly-laden pack animals, induce me to think that this measure would be prejudicial to the interests of their development, and that they should be dependent on Marash or Elbistan. That the latter places are dependent on Aleppo, is, I think, a serious obstacle to their development. If only money were forthcoming for a communication through the Taurus, an outlet for the Elbistan plain, that place might become of very considerable importance.

No judicial inquiry, that is, as Englishmen would understand one, into the proceedings of last year, the doings of Weissi Pasha, &c., was instituted. A Commission was, however, instituted to examine all petitions presented by inhabitants of the district, and, after reporting on them, they were brought before Saïd Pasha. As regards the absence of judicial inquiry, I had no remarks to offer, and I look upon it as far better to allow matters to rest, especially as in Turkey such inquiries only result in the confirmation of whatever version the authorities may wish, however untrue it may be. As the policy followed was in accordance with what I believe to be just and equitable, and the view accepted by your Excellency, I was perfectly satisfied. Saïd Pasha's private opinions were based on the statements of Mussulmans at Marash and on the official *procès-verbal*, or "masbattahs" and "istenlaks," of the proceedings, from which he made copious notes. As it is just against this official inquiry, and the version it has been pleased to give of affairs, that I have always protested, I should have had to remonstrate vigorously, had not the Pasha, on grounds of expediency, advocated a line of action quite in accordance with my views. It was, therefore, quite unnecessary to enter into useless discussions on the subject, though I was quite prepared with proofs in support of my principal assertions.

A less satisfactory point was the manner of conducting the investigation of petitions, and this is, unfortunately, not without a grave significance as to the improbability of Turkish minor officials acting in the execution of the changes, and in the administration of the future, in the spirit of equity and conciliation in which the changes and arrangement of past troubles have been initiated by their superiors.

Without entering into details, I may say that there was not perfect equality as regards Christian and Mussulman, and a considerable spirit of insult and intolerance towards the former. Saïd Pasha was quite unaware of this. It was sufficiently marked for Colonel Briscoe, the gendarmerie officer accompanying Saïd Pasha, who was at first, for very natural reasons biassed against the Armenians, to remark its existence, and he notified his intention of speaking to your Excellency on the subject, should the occasion for an interview occur.

The barrack is complete; the garrison is, I believe, to be reduced.

Zeitoun being, as I have informed your Excellency, merely a village, I see no reason to alter my opinion as to the inadvisability, on general grounds, of maintaining a garrison of Turkish soldiers there. The blockhouses that have been constructed in the neighbourhood are to be garrisoned; this is certainly a wise measure.

I have already informed your Excellency of the feud between the Zeitounli and the Circassians, and of the numerous settlements of the latter in the neighbourhood; while in the district two instances of assassination by Circassians occurred; in both instances I personally questioned the survivor, in both cases they knew the names of the murderers, and their actual place of residence at the time; up to my departure the assassins were uncaptured.

One man, the survivor of three, was very much cut about, but not dangerously wounded.

Although the question is now considered settled, there are two points without some action, in which the solution must be considered incomplete. I am of opinion that until some steps be taken in the matter of land, the loss of which, as I had the honour to inform your Excellency in my previous Report is one of the principal causes of the late disorders, an element of future trouble will remain. The population is overcrowded in a village on a miserable site, and ill-provided with land in the neighbourhood; the natural remedy appears to be emigration.

The Commission seems most anxious to support it, and I understand among the poorer section of the population there are numerous families not averse to it. They would, however, require Government assistance, a thing at the present juncture very hard to procure.

At any rate their lands must be distinctly marked out, a fair site chosen, and certain help given, such as a remission of taxes for a certain time. Whatever details may be deemed necessary, the fact that emigration is advisable is undoubted. About the most eligible site in the neighbourhood is the large upland plain of Geben, surrounded by

mountains, and distant some 40 miles from Zeitoun. This is at present owned by a certain Osman Pasha, of Marash. According to the statement of the inhabitants, Moslem and Christian, he obtained his title some fourteen years ago, when the Government was introduced into the Taurus. The lands belonging to a village of over 200 families he is asserted to have sworn to as his own in the most arbitrary way, obliging the villagers to support his statement.

The matter has often been examined at Marash, but it is alleged bribery and local influence have always been too strong for the peasants. The matter has again been brought up by the inhabitants, and I am in hopes that Saïd Pasha will conduct an impartial investigation. In this part of Anatolia the usual arrangements are, in the case of rented property, either for a man to pay rent, or else the proprietor finds oxen, implements, seed, corn, &c.—the cultivator and the proprietor share the produce equally. This is, however, an arrangement on regular farms or tchifliks, and not on the ordinary village lands; but the relations of the Beys and Aghas in the mountains towards those they assert to be their tenants do not appear to be established on any such definite footing, and there is no doubt, as your Excellency must be aware from reports from the Sivas and Angora vilayets, that an enormous number of Beys claim lands by traditional right to which they can have no real title, as is often admitted by the Government.

On the other hand it is a matter on which it is extremely difficult for any but the Local Government to interfere, as the matter usually hinges on legality of title. The villagers either cannot or will not understand the matter, and it is very hard to make out what is the lawful annual claim of the Beys where, as in many cases, theirs is the only real title, the lands having been from time immemorial in their family. The exactions the villagers complain of, seizing herds, &c., and which at first appear unwarrantable tyrannical outrages, merely represent a distress for rent; but if we suppose two contiguous villages, one holding lands for which they pay only Government taxes, the other paying half or all the produce, according to the nature of the arrangement, to a proprietor, or for which a large sum of money (5 piastres per dennum) is claimed by the latter as rent, it is easy to see how the villagers fail to understand the justice of the arrangement, and that the difference of condition, *i.e.*, that between a tenant farmer and a labourer, is their own misfortune, but one that occurs in all countries.

In the case in point, whether the man is entitled to the property or not I cannot say; at present, in addition to the tithe, he takes almost what he likes from the peasants of their crops as rent, and they are in a state of great destitution, little better than serfs. The extent of the property is enormous: it took me a day to cross it.

Another alternative site for emigration is to the neighbourhood of Sis, though the climate would not be so good for mountaineers. There are considerable lands near there available, some, I believe, belonging to the old Armenian Vank or Monastery. There would be no inconvenience in establishing the people in that neighbourhood as there are already Christians; these are a minority and would remain so.

The other point which I imagine to be of paramount importance is public instruction.

The only method of insuring the people's loyalty, of gradually obliterating their spirit of hatred and distrust of the existing authorities, and of giving them aspirations for a share in the Government and services of the Empire, is by means of education. In their present condition they can neither understand nor realize the advantages of sharing in the military and other services, or the detriment to their own interests, and development of the isolation that the special privileges they demand would engender.

The future tranquillity of the Zeitoun district is dependent on the condition of the adjacent districts and of the Marash Sandjak generally. It was therefore with great regret that I received from the Commission the intelligence that time would not permit of its travelling in the Andarin and Elbistan Cazas. These districts are, indeed, almost equally in need of some special measures as Zeitoun. Far removed as they are from the seat of the Governor-General, belonging to a traditionally turbulent district, and contiguous with that troubled portion of the Anti-Taurus lying at the junction of the Sivas, Angora, and Adana vilayets, suffering from chronic mal-administration, and a terrible want of communications, it seems no wonder that their condition is very aggravated.

Saïd Pasha summoned the Andarin and Elbistan Kaïmakams, and has given them written and verbal instructions clearly defining their duties and responsibilities. As regards brigandage, for example, he wishes to extend the same system as at Zeitoun, of the written personal guarantee of village communities for the behaviour of their members.

I visited the seat of the Andarin Government, but an unexpected illness prevented

my again visiting the Elbistan Caza or the refugees in that neighbourhood and that of Gyuk Sun. The same complaints as to the "emlak," or land-tax, being erroneously over-assessed, as in the Zeitoun district, are general in the former caza; in other places, as Bunduk, Chivilji, &c., the "bedellieh" is registered for too many people, the population having diminished from emigration or other causes, but the principal complaint is against the Notables, or Aghas. After a personal inspection, I can have little doubt that these, however exaggerated, have still so much truth as to represent an almost intolerable state of oppression. At Bunduk, for example, the peasants are exceedingly poor and miserable; the Andarin Notables arrive in the summer, and, as they call the Bunduk lands their "yaila," or summer pasture, by traditional right, they eat up their crops, and if one tithe of the stories be true, do pretty much what they like. I asked for some grapes, almost universally found in the country (as dried grapes form a staple article of winter food), and got as answer that they did not dare to grow them, for fear of further oppression. "We have our crops eaten as it is, and have only enough left us for a bare subsistence." There is no barley in the village, not a feed for a horse, and the bread is of millet-seed, and the population is certainly in an extremely miserable condition. Villagers, Christian and Moslem, brought me similar complaints from other villages. At every place I halted at, without exception, if only for half-an-hour, I was met by some tale of woe which I, of course, could not investigate, but almost all turned on the exactions of the Notables.

Saïd Pasha told me that the Andarin Kaïmakam allowed the truth of many of the charges against these men, but said that with the instructions he now had nothing could happen for the future. I am not equally sanguine, and consider the matter should be examined and the men, if guilty, punished, for at present the tyranny of such throughout Anatolia is one of the most weighty obstructions to the amelioration of the people's condition.

The Kaïmakam was not at the seat of the Government when I visited it, but his representative made the most serious allegations against the Notables of his own accord, and begged me to write them down, and, for the sake of both Moslems and Christians, to effect an impartial investigation. These Notables are themselves the members of the Medjliss, and their position, not only on this account but also from their local influence, usually renders the Governor an instrument in their hands, or, at any rate, a partner in their misdeeds; their connivance is, of course, necessary to him in any money-making transactions he may undertake, such as the sale of tithes, &c., while their opposition will render him almost powerless, unless he be very strongly supported.

In the case of the Andarin Caza the natives, Moslem and Christian, have from time to time summoned up courage and presented formal complaints to the Government at Marash; the Notables have been summoned and proceeded against with all severity, but in a few days, owing, it is alleged, to the bribery of all the officials, the complexion of the affair has changed completely; I and the peasants have failed to obtain redress.

It is, of course, impossible for any one in my position to arrive off-hand at the exact truth, as the statements of the peasants require almost invariably to be considerably discounted, but in this case the testimony of peasants zaptiehs, officials, &c., is so overwhelming and concurrent that I can have no doubt of the existence of gross oppression on the part of the Notables.

Durdun Agha is the worst; the names of the others were lost with some of my notes, belongings, &c., when they moved me from the mountains during my illness. The Caza is very scantily populated, and there are hardly any regular villages, but scattered communities living in tents and huts; it is in a most miserable condition and infested with robbers; at Andarin there are six or seven zaptiehs, and fourteen or fifteen at Gyuk Sun. Brigandage is very rife, and I had numerous brigands pointed out to me. The worst are Gyuk Ahmed Oghlu Sari Bey, Topal Hamid, Kara Mehemet, and Uking Agha. The Tejerlu tribe on the banks of the Jehun have taken to plundering caravans and cattle lifting, and the Notables are concerned in buying from the robbers. At Elbistan there is a similar ring of Notables, members of the Tribunals, and the state of the district is little better.

The functionary* (one of the corrupt members of his disreputable surrounding) sent over by Mazhar Pasha to conduct an inquiry, obtained no results, except (rumour says) pecuniary remuneration for himself.

Résumé.

The future of the Zeitoun, and adjacent districts are then, in my opinion, dependent:—

* Husni Effendi, as far as I remember.

1. On the loyal execution by Ottoman functionaries of the changes now inaugurated without which the former anarchy and abuses are likely to recur.

I can see no greater guarantee that will insure a greater probability of success in this than in other districts, the same hopelessness as to the regeneration and reorganization of the Administration by Ottoman officials, except under foreign influence or supervision, locally or at Constantinople, exists here, as elsewhere, throughout all classes and denominations.

2. The measures seem incomplete without emigration and public instruction [latter included in the 11 points].

3. The state of the surrounding districts calls for the investigation and intervention of the Governor-General.

4. The desire expressed by the Christian population for military service, or its importance to their nation, is not understood by the lower classes. It has been conceded by the Porte, in common with other measures, as the result of an inquiry undertaken at the instance of, and watched over by, the British Government.

Unless special care be taken in its application, tact and judicious measures used in introducing it, and its execution be watched over by the same influence, there is a considerable likelihood of its proving the cause of future trouble. For example, the Christians should be, at any rate, at first, in separate companies, not distributed, and should be localized as far as possible. Use might be made of the existing barrack.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adana, November 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following general report on the state of affairs in the Aleppo district, on the general effect of the Reform Commission, and on the exigencies of the situation.

As I informed your Excellency in my last despatch but one, the work of the Reform Commission has reached a point at which it becomes a question if the Commission had not better be withdrawn.

The most urgent reforms according to the opinion of the local delegates are enumerated in my despatch of the th November.

The gendarmerie question I have already treated of, and until I see something of the working of the new regulations, it would be premature to express an opinion. As far as I am aware, however, one very important point has been left untouched, namely, some arrangement as to billeting zaptiehs when on duty in rural districts. At present horses and men live on the peasants. Very stringent regulations would be required to obviate this, and, even with the new scale of pay, zaptiehs neither can nor will pay in the majority of cases. A system of "bons" or certificates might be introduced. I am much in hopes of seeing the functions of the men more confined to police duty. At present tax-gathering and escorting the very numerous posts of the district in some places almost completely engross the zaptieh's time and energies. One of the main duties of the Commission was an inspection and examination, to be followed by a reconstruction of the Tribunals; the promulgation of the new regulations for the whole Empire in July has naturally taken the place of action on the part of the Commisssion.

I have already reported to your Excellency the strong feeling against these regulations in the country, and have embodied my own criticism in my despatch of the August. Some of the clauses have proved quite impracticable, and it has been settled to pay members of the Makimieh, or Bidaiet Medjliss, 250 piastres a-month in the caza. The new regulations have, indeed, introduced new complications instead of simplyfying matters, have entailed additional expense, and have merely hitherto succeeded in throwing completely out of gear the machinery of the judicial engine of the country, without introducing any rational improvements. From Saïd and Zia Pashas downward, every official I have conversed with on the subject looks on the measures with disfavour.

I have already informed your Excellency how the theoretical desideratum of separating the criminal portion of the Courts from the influence of religious feeling (the Naïb) has in cases been met by adding another religious functionary as head of the Criminal section, at Tarsus, indeed, the Court has been so divided, but the Naïb or Cadi presides over both sections.

Want of funds, and the traditional interference of the Porte, have completely paralysed the nominal executive of the Commission, and the natural effect on the mind of Oriental type of the lack of tangible result has been fully as great as could have been expected in destroying and disappointing the hopes of all sections of the population raised by the political events of last year.

Of the proposed reforms, namely, the "Masbattas" of the Aleppo Assembly, I have already spoken to your Excellency, and I deem them worthy of commendation. There are other points that have not been treated by the Commission, in my humble opinion, in sufficient detail; and, as far as I am aware, one of the main causes of the unsatisfactory state of affairs and impoverished state of the revenue has not been mentioned at all. The points that I think an Imperial Commission might well have dwelt on, and on which they might have prepared some scheme, are—

1. Public works. The manner of executing these, and some scheme for their future development.

Almost the only existing institution in the country, actually in the hands of people of all denominations, subject to control, and in possession of a certain amount of funds, are the "Beladiyehs," or Municipal Councils. From what I know of Turkey, in almost all cases these Councils are scandalously administered, and their funds misappropriated. Even where the Beladiya has funds and wishes to carry out works, the abortive nature of those already attempted under the control of local officials has destroyed all confidence in the capability of the Local Government and population to carry out these works for themselves. This seems to call for remedy. For example, the Mersina Tarsus Adana Road has an estimated revenue from camels, beasts of burden, carriages, &c., of about 1,000*l.* per annum. The road remains without repairs, and is falling into ruin, the revenue for one to two years, *i.e.*, since the toll was instituted, appears to have completely melted away in the course of collection.

2. A financial Report of the resources of the province, and the proposition of some sort of autonomy as to a local budget.

The present disastrous system of mortgaging the revenue at Constantinople (this year in Aleppo it is mortgaged to upwards of double its amount, at Kastamouni the same, at Adana nearly as bad), and of starving the local services must evidently bring financial ruin on the country. If it is impossible to look for the initiation of real reforms at and from Constantinople, some such measures of decentralization seem among the absolute necessities of the country.

Such measures as forest regulations, considerations of water supply, some scheme of ameliorating and supervising agriculture and the introduction of wheeled transport, are, perhaps, matters that may well be left to the Local Government, none the less are they important. On arrival at Aleppo I shall take an early opportunity of ascertaining the views of the Commission on these points.

On the whole the action of the Reform Commission has been eminently disappointing. Saïd Pasha has, of course, had little time or opportunity to go into anything but the Zeitoun question, and the fact of his now being Governor-General will enable him to act in that capacity, instead of as Commissioner impeding, according to his own opinions, which I share, the normal action of the Government.

I quite agree with his Excellency that the application of the reforms already formulated, and of such as he may himself initiate, must be the work of time, and that the only hope of their being successfully carried out lies in their execution under the personal supervision, a work of years if necessary, of chosen and trustworthy agents (if such can be found) of the Governor-General.

The general state of the Vilayet of Aleppo is eminently unsatisfactory, more so I venture to think (and Saïd Pasha is, I know, of the same opinion) than most of the other vilayets; and this in spite of its magnificent geographical position. Notwithstanding the blow dealt to its trade by the opening of the Suez Canal, its traffic is still very extensive (4,000,000*l.* to 5,000,000*l.* per annum), the trade in wool of the desert alone being very considerable (over 1,000,000*l.*).

Aleppo and Aintab are, however, the only two flourishing cities in the district. Aleppo is what it is from its natural advantages, in defiance of the paralysing effect of the Turkish Administration. Standing as it does on the great thoroughfares from the Mediterranean to Diarbekir, Mosul, to Bagdad and Persia, to Upper Armenia and to the Euphrates Valley, it is little wonder that it retains its present importance. It has, indeed, in the development of future communications, whether by water or rail, or both, little to fear, Antioch can never rival it, nor is it likely that Aintab, Diarbekir, Mosul, or the new centre, that the construction of a through route to the Persian Gulf may create would endanger its prosperity, and yet it is without any carriage roads leading to it,

without a proper water supply, without a bank, without proper communication with the sea, the country round it bare, treeless, and ruined, as far as it has been possible to ruin it, and whilst it and its port would almost, under any conditions, be a mart and emporium of Eastern and Western commerce, Aleppo remains such as described, and its port a miserable fever-stricken, harbourless, little village. The unsatisfactory state of this, as of the contiguous vilayets, has been growing steadily instead of diminishing since the war.

One of the most important points alluded to above as one on which the Commission has not touched is the state of the population. In the years that followed the expedition of Dervish Pasha into the Giaour Dagh and the introduction of the Government into the wilder districts of the Taurus, the Kurt Dagh, &c., the Government, by great efforts, and at a large expenditure of money, succeeded in establishing almost all the nomad populations in villages, &c, in both the Vilayets of Adana and Aleppo. The way in which these populations, accustomed to wander in summer in the high cool mountain districts with their flocks, were established in plains hot and stifling in summer, and infested with terrible flies, as well as the selection of many of the sites for villages, is undoubtedly open to criticism, and much unnecessary hardship was inflicted on the settlers. These, through apathy or neglect, were, in many instances, not shown how to construct houses, or instructed or encouraged in agriculture; no trees were planted in their villages, and, as I know from personal experience, the condition of many of them has been aggravated by unnecessarily cruel restrictions or unforeseen circumstances. Still, undoubtedly, it was a step, in the interest of order and prosperity, of paramount importance to establish these populations, and the work was done on a large scale, and at an outlay that the Government will certainly find it difficult to imitate now.

Owing to the disorganization and feeble condition of the Government during and subsequent to the war, the immense majority of these populations—Yuruks and Akshirets, Tederlu, Nejerlu, &c., mostly of Turkman origin—have resumed their nomadic habits; they have deserted their villages and abandoned agriculture, their houses they have quitted, in many cases destroying them and removing the beams for fuel or for sale. Ruined, deserted, village after village can be seen in some districts; I even found a Kaïmakam not long since living in a tent, as the Government-house was ruined. I inquired what the number of the population he was governing was, and he replied, "Well, at present only a few souls, but in a few weeks, when they come back from the 'yaila' (mountain pastures), I shall have upwards of 10,000." The effect of this may be imagined; not only are vast fertile districts left untilled, the revenue impoverished, but all the disorder and anarchy a nomad population gave rise to has recommenced.

From the Antioch plain, from the Islahia plain north of it, from the Giaour Dagh, from the Pujas Sandjak, from Osmanieh, from Kars and Sis and Kozan, from the Bazardjik plain north of Aintab, this population moves northwards to the Taurus, the Anti-Taurus, to Sivas Yuzzad, and even to near Angora. Their passage is of course marked by the devastation by their cattle of much of the crops of the permanent villages they pass through; I can testify to this from ample personal experience. I need not enlarge on all the evils attendant on such a state of affairs; it was indeed the arrival of some of these nomads that brought on one of the original Zeitoun raids, namely, that of Borzdouglun. In the winter the nomads return to the lowlands, living in tents and temporary shelters. This year the matter was aggravated by their place in the plains being taken by the nomad Arabs; the latter, after doing enormous damage to the populations settled near the Euphrates, were driven by the drought right up to the spurs of the Taurus. The Arabs have not been north for many years till latterly, but at present they are quite beyond the control of the Government. I need not trouble your Excellency with topographical details, but I can assure you on my personal evidence that this movement is general in the Aleppo Vilayet and all the east of that of Adona. It seems impossible to acquit the local Governors of a very heavy share of responsibility for the disastrous exodus of the nomad populations from their settlements, although of course in many cases being utterly powerless for want of force, they were obliged to tacitly acquiesce. Still Beys of communities have assured me that they bribed the Governors, and I am inclined to believe it.

A smaller question is that of the refugees. Their miserable condition I have already made known to your Excellency in private correspondence, and I only regret that my illness has prevented my taking advantage of the funds your Excellency so kindly and promptly placed at my disposal to alleviate before the winter, at any rate in a few instances, the misery that is around me. In the establishment of the refugees and the establishment of the nomads, it is evident of what importance it is to the Government to have a proper demarcation of land, even as regards pasture and forest rights, as

besides the reckless system of cutting and destroying, and the wanton autumn fires, the damage done by goats is incalculable. Some sort of "cadastre" is requisite, as at present villages often cultivate enormous tracts of land to which they have no title. The land is badly cultivated in patches here and there, and fields are only sown biennially. Apart from these questions the condition of the peasantry generally is very bad. The taxation is almost everywhere most oppressive and aggravated by the exactions of the tithe farmers, the terrible suffering induced by the fluctuations and fate of the caïmé currency, and the forced contributions to the Government. Peasants, as a rule, are indebted even in the most-favoured districts. From 2 to 5 per cent. per month for six months is the usual rate of interest, though I know individual cases as low as 12 per cent. per annum. The Bank of Agriculture of Adana, Tarsus, and Mersina, the capital of which was subscribed for the peasants by forced contributions (upwards, I believe, of 100,000*l.*) appears to have been a failure, although still in existence, owing to the conduct of the officials; no interest is paid to the peasants on the subscribed capital.

Besides the taxation, especially in the mountain districts, many of the worst of the feudal traditions remain; Moslems and Christians alike are oppressed by the Dere Beys and Aghas (the local Notables); these men claim as their own the villagers' lands, and take from them in kind pretty much what they like as rent. Is a goat wanted to be killed for guest it is taken from peasants and so on. In most cases these men being Notables are themselves the members of local Councils; redress for the peasants is impossible. The local Governor being either powerless, or, more probably, in their hands, they are far too strong for him to oppose; and if he, as he may be, is obliged by the conditions under which he obtained office to gain money by dishonest practices, even though naturally upright, their connivance is, of course, necessary to him. Their power is almost absolute; a man who opposes them will be thrown into prison on a charge of debt, or on a false charge. They have retainers who render them implicit obedience, and will, if necessary, make away with any man obnoxious to their patron. I am not speaking wildly or on hearsay, as, from another despatch, your Excellency will be aware that this is the state of affairs in the Andarin and Elbistan districts.

Christians and Moslems are alike oppressed, though, as a rule, the former the most, as the hated and despised race. Should the zaptiehs come on business, they will be quartered on the Christians, and, in addition to the same burdens as their Moslem brethren, they have to bear the insults and contumely all travellers in Turkey know so well. To compare the two sections of the population, the oppressive taxation is equally distributed, as are, roughly speaking, the exactions and tyranny of the Dere Beys. But the Moslem has the heavy burden of military conscription, heavy enough as regards the regulars, when 1 in 6 is the proportion taken, heavier still when the bribery and exactions the ballot forms the pretext for, are taken into consideration; and, worst of all now, when the redifs (married men) have been called away for three long years, leaving wife and family to do as best they can, or be supported by relatives and the rest of the community. As a set-off, the Christian has the poll-tax of the "bedellieh," or exemption from military service, and the peasants undoubtedly find it a heavy burden.

As regards loans and usury both classes suffer alike. In all matters connected with lawsuits the Government, and so on, both classes alike have to deal with corrupt, avaricious, grasping Tribunals, and bribery is the key-note of the system.

In criminal cases, however, and where there are no pecuniary interests involved, the Moslem peasant, oppressed though he be, may count, however gross his crime, on the certainty the *esprit de corps* of Islam will give him of the advantage over a Christian adversary. Poor, oppressed, burdened as he is, he is free from insult. The Christians, on the contrary, almost always in a minority in Asia Minor, have outrage, insult, and contumely to undergo, and little or no hope of redress or support whatever their wrong; their utter degradation and want of independent spirit of truth, or even comprehension of honesty, are the strongest confirmatory evidence of this. It is true a Turk will adduce the much vaunted protection of the foreigner in their favour, and I speak of the friendless Moslem as more oppressed, but it is a view I cannot share. The chronic interference of foreigners in the cases of individual Christians is, in my humble opinion, of more than doubtful benefit to the community, and it is the moral effect of their presence, the knowledge of the power of those at Constantinople whom they represent locally, that is the real check, and its influence as such, which of course affects both classes, is, I believe infinitely greater than the effect of interference in individual cases.

The strongest circumstantial evidence of the down-trodden condition of the Christian minority, despised and insulted even by their Moslem fellow-sufferers, is that, whereas at Zeitoun they are in the majority, bitter feuds exist.

In speaking of reforms, in the press writing on reforms, in the consideration of the

subject by Consuls, Notables, &c., the exigencies of the most advanced class seem rather to be considered, and the backward primitive condition of the vast majority of the people and its requirements to be lost sight of. Of course I am aware, from your Excellency's correspondence on the subject last year with Her Majesty's Government, that you are aware of this, but I do not feel sure that the Turks, who have a passion for changing, for new ideas, for beginnings without completion, realize it. What is wanted is not so much new regulations, new enactments, and perpetual changes, but personal reform.

Personal reform is the key-note of the change that can alone regenerate the Administration in all its branches. There can be little hope of general personal reform until personal responsibility be brought home to officials, and to effect this punishment is needed as the deterrent. The fear of punishments and adequate pay are two requisites.

At present, I believe not one single official believes in merit being the road to advancement, or in honesty being the best policy. I have, as your Excellency is aware, a large acquaintance among this class, and I regret to find that with those they know they do not attempt to conceal their belief of the inability of their own Administration to reform itself, and their utter hopelessness as to the future.

[Confidential.—From Saïd Pasha downwards, I have not met one man who really believes in the regeneration by Turks of the existing Administration.]

Although beyond the competency of the Commission to deal with, there is one point that I could not have failed to have been struck by—I mean the powers of the Governors-General. With the condition of the people as backward as it is, this power seems unnecessarily limited. A strong paternal Government and prompt and even-handed justice is required. At present the power of the Vali for good, owing to the numerous restrictions upon him, is exceedingly limited, but his influence for evil enormous.

As any change in this matter would affect the whole system of administration, and be a blow aimed at the bureaucracy of Constantinople, it could scarcely be initiated by a Provincial Reform Commission. With the officials under him directly responsible to the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Police, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the Minister of Finance, and those of Public Works, Vakoufs, Mines and Forests, &c., it is evident to what harassing restrictions a Governor-General is subjected. The same causss are at work, though in a lesser degree, with local Governors, but their independence is none the greater; other causes, indeed, combine to make it less.

The spectacle of an independent Governor, I do not mean an arbitrary despot, but a man who can act honestly but independently of local influence, is excessively rare in Turkey. With the local Governors, if they are not in the hands of the Medjliss, the local influence of a ring of Beys or Aghas is almost always paramount, and nearly every petty Kaïmakam and Mudir governs by identifying himself with the interests of a party. It is needless to enlarge upon the inevitable abuses which follow. Even where a Vali, as Zia Pasha of Adana, who is arbitrary in his acts, holds himself clear of the Medjliss, and will not brook interference; he has probably to identify himself with some interest, in this case that of a few merchants, almost all Greeks (usurers), by whom literally the whole country may be said to be "exploité."

What is required in the Aleppo district is the introduction of prompt and even-handed justice, security and capital, whether the latter can be procured either by the gradual development of the country, or by the attraction of foreign enterprise, I, of course, cannot say.

Whatever changes and innovations, however, may be introduced, without some improvement in the conduct of the personnel of the Administration, the history of the past years is only too likely to repeat itself.

It is hard, indeed, at the present time, to see how the Turkish Government can undertake improvement in the country on anything like the scale it did some years since, and it is very discouraging to remark the utter futility of these, and the desolation that has come upon the districts where they were undertaken. At the time of Dervish Pasha's expedition vast sums of money must have been spent, numerous roads were constructed, notably one through the Kurt Dagh. These are now decayed and disused. The four Kaïmakamliks of Azize, Hassa, Islahia (Refoom), and Osmanieh, were established, and large Government buildings erected. At Hassa and Islahia handsome masonry defensible barracks, that can hardly have cost less than 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.* each, were constructed; these are now absolute ruins, mere roofless shells. The whole district was opened up, the nomads were settled, and in one district alone I know of sixty villages only one or two of which, as far as I could see, now remain. Osmanieh, Hassa, Islahia, were laid out as small model towns, bazaars built, and store-houses; all are now ruins, and in summer almost deserted.

Dervischie was another new village. The town of Kars, on the border of the Kozan district, was also constructed, and all the nomads in that region settled. The villages are now ruins, and Kars so dilapidated that it is little better than one.

Akhif Pasha, it is true, has been detailed for settling these "ahshirets," or nomads; but hitherto the result seems exceedingly small. I visited districts shortly after him, and except that I found some soldiers encamped in one place, and some nomads constructing a few rude houses, I regret to say that I found very few tangible traces of his visit. When a thing has once been completed, or partially completed, in Turkey it is left to itself; and in view of the labour, money, and time that has been wasted in the former introduction of reforms, it is not perhaps amiss to bring forward these details, in the hope that the same thing may not be again repeated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.